

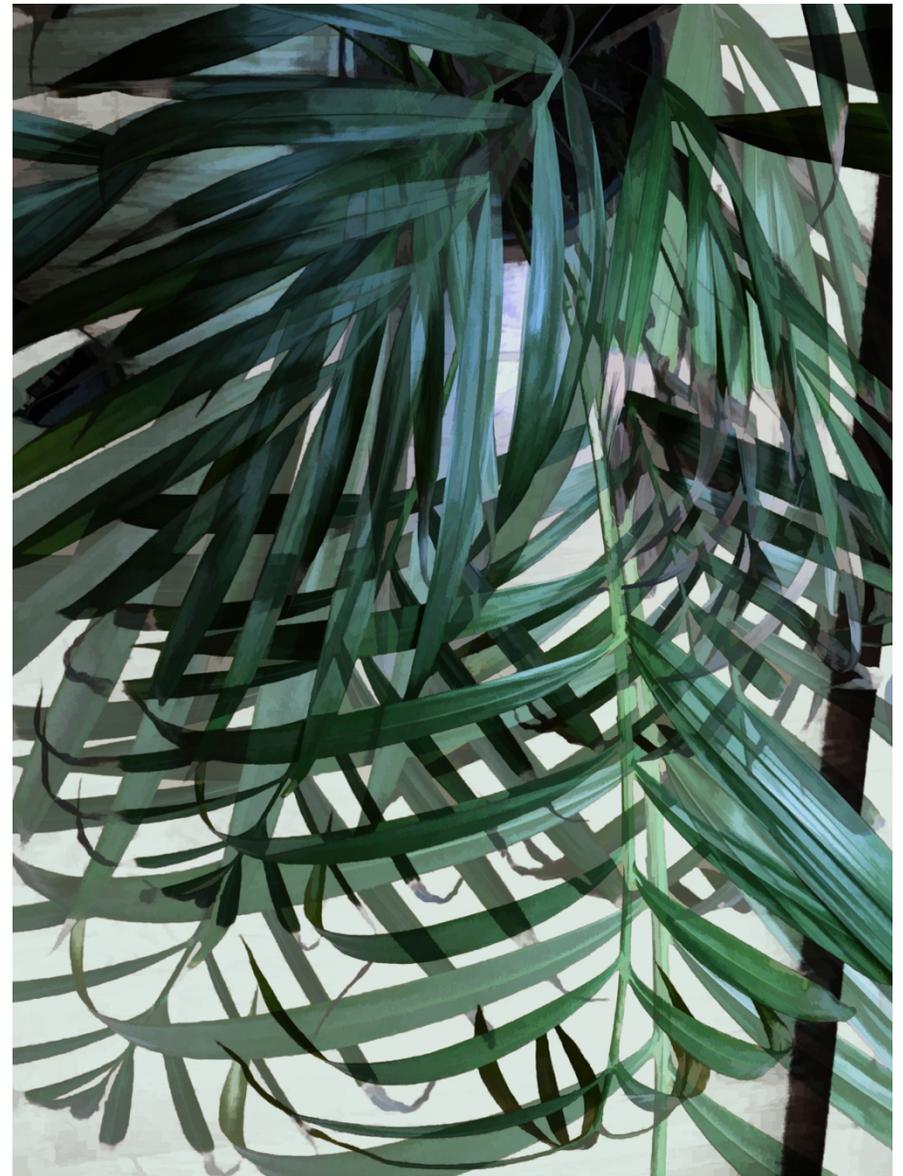
St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

The Galiano Island Community Church

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The Reverend Sarah Tweedale
Priest in Residence

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Rector



Palm Sunday – Holy Week begins

Hymn – All Glory Laud and Honour...

Collect

Almighty and everliving God, in tender love for all our human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take our flesh and suffer death upon a cruel cross. May we follow the example of his great humility, and share in the glory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9

Psalm 31

Philippians 2: 5-11

Gospel Reading - **Matthew 21:1-11**

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,

⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their

cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

"Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" ¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Reflections - some notes from Rev'd Sarah



The earth has fallen silent, and in the silence we read again of the one who comes riding on the donkey, amidst shouts 'Hosannah! – literally 'save us now!'

Perhaps this is the most important Holy Week in our lives. Important precisely because it is so different: we are not gathering with others, joyfully singing, but apart, and isolated.

In the quiet, and isolation we might be able to reflect more deeply than ever, we might remember and cry from our own hearts, amidst our fear, and uncertainty, when our world is shaken, and changed 'save us now!' And we might in the quiet, on our own, wait patiently to notice just how the story – the ultimate good news – unfolds.

This week, in the quiet we might dare to feel the dismay of seeing Jesus do the unimaginable when we had set our hopes on him, maybe had hoped for some miracle – yet might we

see in his death on the cross he saves us more fully than we could have hoped?

This week we reflect on the downward movement of God-with-us, downward into the depths of suffering and death, not the imposition of power but the submission and disposition of love, the sharing of our burden, the sacrificing himself, *taking our burden* for us, so that we may share his joy, his life, his love.

Hymn - What wondrous love is this-

Prayers: The Lord's Prayer

Almighty and most merciful God, we pray for the world you love; we pray for those who are sick and suffering now, for families who are waiting in silence as their dear ones are ill, we pray for the health care workers and for essential service workers, for their safety and protection as they offer themselves so generously in the care of others. And we pray for this community on Galiano, for our Galiano Health Care and Emergency Services, and for those who are continuing to bring us supplies and services for our daily needs. We pray for those who are particularly vulnerable here on Galiano due to age, or chronic illness. Give us hearts, we pray, to act wisely and kindly toward each other, and stir us to respond to your love by sharing your goodness with all. We offer ourselves to you, our God, in gratitude and thanksgiving for your love always, in the name of Jesus your Son our Lord. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Hymn: Ride on ride on in Majesty



the sanctuary in the quiet...

Some notes for further reflection, and perhaps discussion?

Notice Jesus arrives riding on a donkey, and the quote from Zechariah 9:9-10 which speaks of the promise of the king who will bring peace.

Notice also the people who, seeing him ride into the city on a donkey, recognize the significance of this, shout and wave branches welcoming Jesus, acclaiming him as the one who will fulfil their hopes, calling out '**Hosanna**' which means literally '**save us now!**'.

Notice also v 10 - '*the whole city was in turmoil*' While some in the crowd cheer and wave branches, others are wondering '**Who is this?**'

That is a profound and good question to ask as we enter Holy Week and attend to the details of Jesus ministry, and how he accomplishes what he has come to do; how he brings peace and saves his people.