

### MORE THAN A CHEERLEADER

As Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, the crowds embraced him as a king by shouting "Praise God for the Son of David! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in the highest heavens!" (Matthew 21:9) Yet tragically, only five days later, at least some of the people in this cheering crowd would be yelling, "Crucify him!" (Matthew 27:22). Why was there such a dramatic and tragic change of heart? Because the Kingdom Jesus came to establish threatened the worldly 'kingdoms' of the day - pride, personal freedom, lust, greed, comfort, entertainment, power, achievement and self-interest. And I have no doubt it would be the same if the events of Palm Sunday were played out in any community today. I am sure that everyone who lined the streets that day had a different reason for waving those palms. Some were wanted liberation from an oppressive government. Some were curious onlookers casually joining in on the cultural festivities of the day. For others they were looking to be healed or amazed by miracles and great teaching. In essence they were cheering Jesus because they wanted him to fulfil their personal agenda. However, when Jesus made it clear that his mission didn't match their agenda, the cheering stopped. When he started to ask them to lay down their lives and give up their personal agendas for Him, then things changed dramatically. They realised that it is a lot easier to cheer for Jesus than it is to lay down your life for Jesus. It's easy to praise the name of Jesus and sing "Hosanna" when it doesn't cost us anything. To be a true follower of Jesus requires us to be much more than just Sunday morning 'cheerleaders. It requires us to make His Kingdom and will the the priority our daily life. It requires us to do the tough work of peacemaking with others (Matthew 5:9), to love the unlovable (John 15:12), to show mercy to those who deserve it least (James 2:13), to forgive your enemies and do good to those who hate you (Luke 6:27) and to keep no record of wrongs done to us (1 Corinthians 13:5). It requires us to sacrifice our comfort and be willing to risk everything to share the gospel with others. It can be easy to sing about Jesus on Sunday, but it will cost us much more to follow Him completely the rest of the week. May we not be content to just be a cheerleader for Jesus and wave our palm branches when it is convenient. No matter what it costs us to follow Him, may we always remember that it cost Him everything to save us and give us the glory of heaven. Because of the cross and the empty tomb we can be certain that the absolute very best is yet to come as we live with Him forever in his eternal Kingdom. God bless, Pastor John.

## **PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS**

- \* Thank God for the gift of Jesus Christ—who came to give us salvation, new life, peace, hope and joy forever.
- \* Thank God that He has revealed himself to us in His Word, His Spirit and His creation, so that we stand in awe of Him. He alone is worthy of our praise, glory and honour.
- \* Pray for community of Nashville as they deal with the grief and anger from the mass shooting at the Covenant Presbyterian School.
- \* Pray for Chris Symons (Tom's brother) who is recovering from heart surgery and for Jeanie as she continues to recover from swine flu.
- \* Pray that we will live with Christ as our hope and true source of peace and happiness.
- \* Pray that our ministry leaders will be refreshed over the holiday break.

#### **REFLECTIONS OF CHRIST IN THE PASSOVER**

This Wednesday night at the church at 7pm, Colin Lituri will be leading us through a Passover Seder. During this special event Colin will be showing how this special time of remembrance points to the Messiah and to the origin of our Christian Communion.

#### **MOVIE AND MORNING TEA**

We will hosting a morning tea and movie morning this Thursday morning starting at 10am. Please bring a plate of food to share (maybe even some hot cross buns) and then stay to watch the movie Risen.

#### **EASTER SERVICES**

Our Good Friday service (including communion) will start at 8am this Friday 7th April. Our Resurrection Sunday service will be held at the usual time of 9am next Sunday morning (followed by our usual time of morning tea).

#### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

All of our Youth and Children's ministries (Sunday School, Kid's Ignite, Playgroup and Youth) are having a break during the school holidays. They will recommence in the week after the holidays.

#### NEW WEDNESDAY SOCCER PROGRAM

In term 2 we are looking to commence a new program on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 to 4.30pm. The purpose of this program is to more intentionally connect with the 150+ kids from our soccer club and look to invite them to our existing kids ministries. While Harrison and Kaden will be running the program, they will need help setting up, signing in, signing out, afternoon tea, crowd control and packing up. If you would like to help there is a volunteer sheet in the gallery for you to sign up.



**NOTES** "Which Jesus Are You Looking For?" (John 12:1-26)

# WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP SERVICE

Palm Sunday

"Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me." (John 12:25-26)

'To know Christ and make Him known'

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9AM GREG BLUNDEN "Which Jesus Are You Looking For?" (John 12:1-26)