



Watering the Seed: Read, Explore, Pray

Insert for April 5, 2020 Palm Sunday

READ

Psalm 134 - The Last Psalm of Ascent

The pilgrims have finally made it to the temple! Imagine the daytime throngs praising God and enjoying each other's company. Before they depart again for home, the pilgrims sing to the priests, encouraging them to praise God even in the dark watch of the night when everyone has gone and they are all alone:

**Praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord
who minister by night** in the house of the Lord.
Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
and **praise** the Lord.

The priests' response reminds the pilgrims that the Lord is not just in Zion but will be found at all moments and in all places:

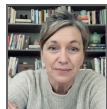
**May the Lord bless you from Zion,
he who is the Maker of heaven and earth.**

Worship Lyrics on the reverse of the page

[Link](#) to YouTube: Johanna Smith sings *Ulysses* by Josh Garrels

Message from Anne

[Link](#) to YouTube (17 min)



EXPLORE

"By Night"

How has this experience of Covid-19 been a "night time" experience for you? Have you been more often awake at night? How do you find yourself responding to this invitation to praise God in the night? What might it be like to praise God in this darkness?

"Praise"

Listen to Joy Harjo's *Praise the Rain* (audio [Link](#)) on Poetry Unbound.

"Blessed by the Maker"

Imagine God, Maker of Heaven and Earth, holding and loving this earth. Now, imagine Maker taking on flesh, and coming to earth in the form of a baby. Imagine this Maker, Jesus, growing up, teaching, preaching, healing, entering Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. Can you praise this Maker? Can you imagine this Maker blessing you?

PRAY

When Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil and asked, **"Who is this?"** The reply came: **"This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."** (Matt. 21:1-11)



Jesus is showing up. Coming right into the midst of all this chaos:

"Hosanna to the Son of David, Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Action What path can we make for Jesus to enter? Today you are invited to lay down your branches. In Israel they used palm fronds, on the west coast we use cedar. What branches can you access today? At your front door, throw down some branches; say a prayer to invite Jesus to come into the place of our turmoil: in the world, in our community, in ourselves.

Take a picture of your doorstep and "palm branches". As we usually pray and wave our branches together, it would be wonderful to still share these images. Send yours to Angela angneufeld@gmail.com).

Worship Lyrics on the reverse of the page

[Link](#) to *Ride On, King Jesus* by Steve Bell

Ulysses by Josh Garrels

I'm holding on to the hope that one day this could be made right.
 I've been shipwrecked, and left for dead, and I have seen the darkest sights.
 Everyone I've loved seems like a stranger in the night
 But, Oh, my heart still burns, tells me to return, and search the fading light.

I'm sailing home to you, I won't be long
 By the light of moon I will press on
 Until I find my love

Trouble has beset my ways, and wicked winds have blown,
 Sirens call my name, they say they'll ease my pain, then break me on the stones
 But true love is the burden that will carry me back home
 Carry me with the memories of the beauty I have known

I'm sailing home to you I won't be long
 By the light of moon I will press on

So tie me to the mast of this old ship and point me home
 Before I lose the one I love, before my chance is gone,
 I want to hold her in my arms

Ride On, King Jesus by Steve Bell

Verses 1-3 and 6 by Hilda Carper / © 1974

(Chorus) Ride on King Jesus
 No one can a-hinder thee
 Ride on King Jesus ride on
 No one can a-hinder thee

King Jesus rides to Jerusalem
 No one can a-hinder thee
 Hosanna to King David's son
 No one can a-hinder thee
 He rides upon a donkey small
 No one can a-hinder thee
 The King of peace the Lord of all
 No one can a-hinder thee

(Chorus)

The children sing and they dance and shout
 No one can a-hinder thee
 If they won't praise the rocks cry out
 No one can a-hinder thee
 King Jesus done just what He said
 No one can a-hinder thee
 He healed the sick and He raised the dead

(Chorus)

The light of God shines on His face
 No one can a-hinder thee
 He offers all His pardoning grace
 No one can a-hinder thee
 Come join the throng your voices raise
 No one can a-hinder thee
 The King of love deserves your praise
 No one can a-hinder thee