



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday

March 28, 2021

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.¹ This doesn't mean you have to do them alone. You can invite those who live with you, or connect with others through the phone or computer, or even in small groups outside.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca).



Entry into Jerusalem - Brink

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca

¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

Announcements

Annual Meeting: April 11th

We will be holding it over Zoom. The details will be emailed out to those who normally receive emails. If you are not on this list and would like the details, please contact the office or Rev Peter.

Reports will be available next Friday, and emailed out to those on our list. If you would like a print copy please let the office know.

Book Study: *The Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren
Ines found this to be a very helpful book when she went through it a couple of years ago looking at God in ordinary things. She would like to explore it again with you. If you are interested, please contact her at Books@kensingtonchurch.ca

Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday: March 28 @ 10:30

Good Friday: April 2 @ 10:30

Easter: April 4 @ 10:30

Prayer Group: will be meeting through Zoom on Wed. at 11:30 a.m.

If you would like to pray at a different time, please contact Peter.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)

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or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

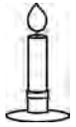
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Visiting: The government considers ministers to be essential workers. If you need a visit, please contact Rev. Peter.

Live Worship: After Montréal is no longer a Red Zone, Session will reconsider when we feel it is safe to open. If you would like the Zoom information, please contact Peter.



Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle
Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship (which is from the PWS&D (Presbyterian World Service and Development) and is being used by congregations across Canada)

Jerusalem, at last! We join the crowd streaming to the mountain.
We watch Jesus approach on a lowly donkey.
We hear the crowds cry “Hosanna!”

“Hosanna!

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest heaven!”**

There is a joyful song in the air:
the people cheer and the palms wave.
But the adulation of the crowd is shallow.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Hosanna to the blessed of God.
Son of David, save us now.**

The crowd grows—
the people want to be part
of something important.

**“Hosanna! Blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord!”**

Let us pray.

**God of all times, we have followed Jesus
into the crowded city.**

**We too want to catch a glimpse of Jesus.
Reveal to us what true glory, leadership and obedience
look like under your reign.
In the name of Jesus we pray,
Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Praise Him, praise Him.....pg 11 (372)²
www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ_VDnw0-eo



Prayer of Confession

Jesus, saviour and servant,
you journeyed here to be with us,
Walking hard roads and teaching hard lessons.
**Your Spirit called to us,
and we have come here to be with you.**

Loving God, we remember

we remember that going up to Jerusalem
cost Jesus his very life.

Jesus, we come before you,

conscious of the way religious words and holy phrases
can slip so easily from our lazy lips
and our hardened hearts.

What do we really know of you

of your mountainous truth,
your rock-hard integrity,
the depth of your suffering
for love of us all?

**Forgive us for our shallow faith,
and our timid following:**

**forgive us for the excuses we make
for going our own way**

² There was a small mix-up and the print version used this last week... but it's a good hymn.

and claiming it as yours...

May your Holy Spirit,
active within us and among us,
turn us round again, we pray.

**Show us how to be open again
to your faithfulness and to your freedom;
that we may live new lives,
growing the seeds of the Kingdom.**

Amen.³

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Here the good news from Psalm 118

“His steadfast love endures for ever.”

Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me free.

The Lord is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

In Christ, God answers us and sets us free!

In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

✦ Lord's prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

Jesus left us a prayer to guide us into a healthier relations with
God and each other. Let us join with Christians around the
world, saying...

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

³ adapted from *Eggs and Ashes* pg 127. Wild Goose Publ

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom,
the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.



♪ Hymn: Hosanna.....pg 11 (216)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLRCZGfcEWO>



Listening to God

✦ Prayer

Send you Spirit among us, O God,
as we look to see Jesus.
Prepare our minds to hear your Word.
Move our hearts to accept what we hear.
Purify our desires to follow you with joy and trust.
This we pray in the light of Jesus,
Amen.

Intro to the readings

- Today's readings are familiar... but we're also going to hear from a different perspective...

Reading:

Will the Rocks Shout?

two characters as fist or sock puppets, + scripture

G (*relaxed sigh*) Ahh, it's a nice day to be a rock.

The sun is up. I'm getting warm.

The road's fairly quiet.

Although, it does seem to be getting a bit busier.



R (*more a scream*) ahhh!! ouch.

Oh, hi Granny (*Grampa*) Granite.

G Hi Rocky, nice landing

R Thanks. I like to roll with it when I get kicked.

Somebody running down the road. She

seemed really excited.

G You-know [*Rocky knows. Grani always tells stories*], I remember back when Alexander the Great arrived on his war chariot. The ground shook with the soldiers all marching in step - and the crowds cheered and sang. We don't get parades like that on this side of the city anymore. That was exciting.

R Yes Grani... although, I'm feeling something. The people seem to be gathering.

Isn't that unusual for this time of day.

G Well, yes. I suppose it is.

You know, I remember another time when the Babylonians were in charge, there was a dream of one of their own riding in as a victorious

king, but coming like one of them, not a king.

R What's that mean?

G uh? Oh, I'm not sure dear.

R Well, there's definitely something happening now.

scripture: Luke 19: 28-38

²⁸ After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

²⁹ When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰saying, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" just say this: "The Lord needs it." ' ³²So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. ³³As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, 'Why are you untying the colt?' ³⁴They said, 'The Lord needs it.' ³⁵Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying,

'Blessed is the king

who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven,

and glory in the highest heaven!'

R Wow! Was that The One?

G [quietly singing a hosanna or hallelujah (maybe 216 in hymnbook). Rocky interrupts...]

R That person. On the donkey. Every part of me shook at the sound of his voice.

G [*said in wonder*] Oh, me too. I thought I was going to crack another pebble.

R But, he looks so normal!

G Yes. That's what the stories said.
We are part of the creator.

R Ah! [*not happy sound*]
They've dumped a palm branch on me. Get it off. I want to see. I want to join the praise as well.

scripture: Luke 19: 39-40

³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, order your disciples to stop.' ⁴⁰He answered, 'I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.'

R I hope they do it. I hope they stop.
I want to praise The One; to celebrate, to thank.

G Don't worry Rocky. We'll always have a role to play.

scripture: [Psalm 118](#): 1, 4-6, 19-29 (or all of it)

Sermon: Celebrating Jesus

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁴ Amen.

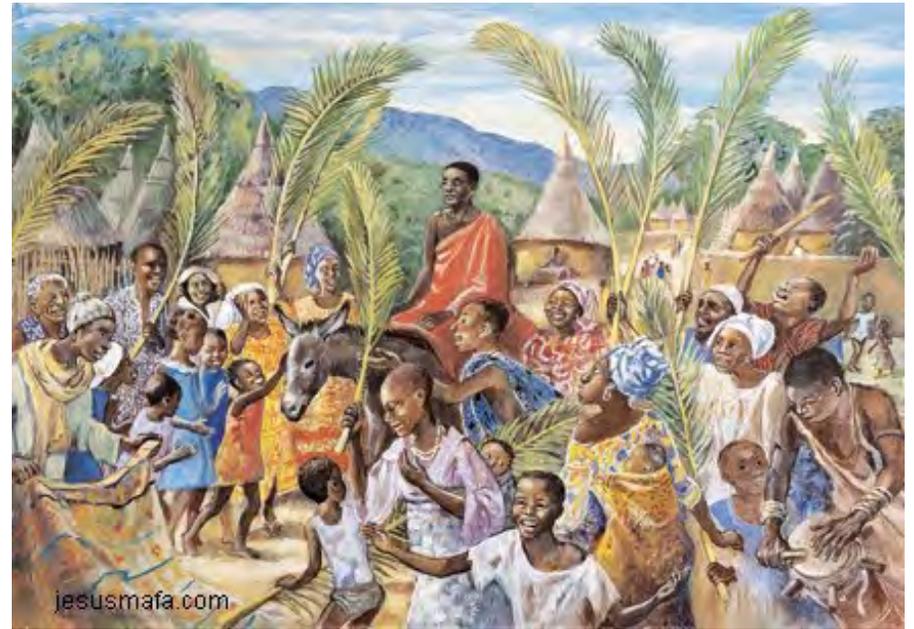
This week I was invited to do something that was a real blessing for me. I was invited to bless some palms. It may seem odd that when asked to give a blessing you receive a blessing, but that's often what happens. Blessing the palms is a practice that some denominations have. It recognizes that palms can be

4 Psalm 19:14

special, and this recognition provides us with a stronger connection with God.

Now, palms can remind may remind you of a vacation, but today the Palm branches remind us of the parade when Jesus entered Jerusalem. People were celebrating and shouting out.

The stones were excited by the presence of their creator;
but what about the people?
What were they so excited about?



Well, they had all sorts of reasons. Jesus had become famous, and popular. People were connecting him with God and their expectations.

Some thought of him as a king. We heard that in the scripture passage today. Something in the parade that would have encouraged this was that Jesus rode in on an animal that had never been ridden - something Kings do. Why did they want a

king? One of the things a king does is provide justice. People are always wanting more justice in the world. It could have been with a neighbour, or the commonly corrupt business practices, or with the political leaders... and probably taxes. Those looking for a Messiah would be looking for one “who comes in the name of the Lord” to bring justice. Is this something that you would turn out to celebrate?

Some people were looking for a military leader. Somebody to rally the people; to reclaim the promised land from outsiders. Granny Granite was right in remember military parades. There would have been one going on around the same time as the Roman Governor Pilate rode into Jerusalem for the Passover festival. Would you celebrate someone who came to free you from an oppressive society?

Of course, there were people there looking for the opposite. Some expected this man of God to bring universal peace - not through the sword, but through the power of God. Someone who would give peace to all nations. The stories of Jesus calming stores and tortured souls offered hope of peace. Would you celebrate peace in our time?

Healing was one way that Jesus brought peace. His healing made people’s bodies and souls well. There are numerous stories of people bringing their loved ones to Jesus to be healed... and of Jesus going to those who were broken. How would you celebrate somebody who made people who were broken whole again?

And, of course, there’s his teaching. He spoke with such authority. He spoke with such wisdom. His teaching seemed to come from God... the definition of a prophet. Would he say anything today? Was the crowd waiting in anticipation? What would come next? Would you show up to hear somebody wise say something amazing?

Some people, I’m sure, turned out to see somebody famous

and powerful. It wasn’t any one of the previous things that excited them, that’d seen all that before, but that Jesus had them all. With this, Jesus was able to go anywhere. He met with the working poor & and had dinner with the educated elite, he spoke in synagogues & on street-corners, he interacted with different types of Jews, with Romans, and even Samaritans. Is that power to be able to go anywhere? Would you like to meet someone like that?

Getting back to the parade, Jesus’ arrival is similar to that Pilate’s, and different. The followers he lead into town were just a collection of people; nothing like the highly trained and disciplined Roman army. He also came on a donkey, not riding in a war chariot. This refers back to a prophecy by Zechariah.⁵

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Riding on the donkey, Jesus is acting out the role of the victorious king, but one who is humble. In this case, the word *humble* includes the concept that this king is one of the people. There’s two parts to Jesus being one of us. There’s his approachability; that Jesus can relate to us and we can relate to him. And there’s the mistaken impression that Jesus is like us... because it’s really the reverse. We are made in the image of our creator. We are like Jesus. Perhaps that’s what people were excited about? This amazing, powerful person who is also one with them. Would you go see someone amazing, but also approachable?

That’s a lot to celebrate: a king, a leader, a peacemaker, a healer, a teacher/prophet... all in a humble person - someone like you, but amazing. It’s no wonder they began to praise God loudly.

How would you celebrate Jesus coming to town?

⁵ Zechariah 9: 9... although you can start with the previous chapter

How do you celebrate God coming to town?

It's a good question,
because God is active here.

There are people and groups that try and improve justice now. There's famous groups like *Amnesty International*, who help you write letters to spotlight injustice. And there's smaller groups, like *Action Réfugiés* (started by Presbyterian minister Glynis Williams) who help refugees in Montréal receive a just hearing and advocate for their rights. There's *Head and Hands*, just at the other end of Godfrey, working to help young adults dealing with difficulties in life. How do we celebrate?

There are groups working to bring peace in our time. One group is *Christian Peacemaker Teams*. They send teams to areas such as the Palestinian occupied territories to document what happens and support non-violent local actions. Locally there the police. While it's the problems that make the news, there's many more times they help situations. And there's the people who are helping make the system better. This week I was talking to a lawyer who is thinking of changing from litigation to family mediation... a much more peaceful way. How do we celebrate?

In the last year we've been hearing about the care teams in hospitals - people providing healing. There's also the teams researching the vaccines. Providing a different sort of healing are the psychologists helping people deal with the stress of the last year... and friends who listen.

And there's teachers. Remember one who taught you to see yourself and the world differently? Who showed you there's more than you imagined? Did they think they were a teacher?

...and humility. People who know themselves; who are

comfortable with themselves. People who don't act like they are better, but simply accept you.

Several of those examples are groups, but there are also individuals, especially in churches, doing little things: from writing letters, to making connections with those who are different, to listening, helping, teaching, praying and so much more...

How do celebrate these groups and people?

How could we shout out with praise to God?

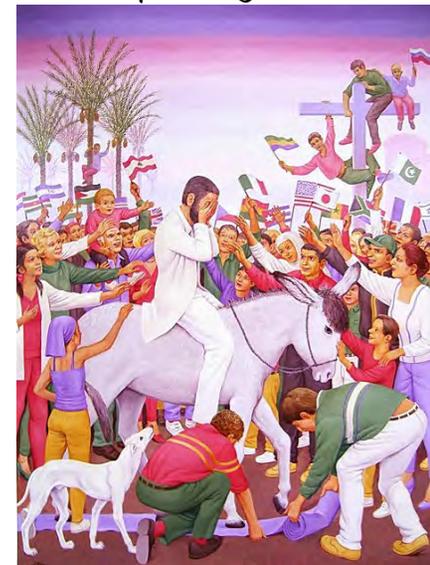
Because Jesus is riding into the world,
and that is what the psalms remind us of.

and to God be all the glory.

Amen.



Responding to God



Palms Sunday
P Koenig

FaithTalk

These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Memories: Sharing memories of Palm Sunday. Where there parades? songs? crafts? ...or did it not happen?

Etching:

Values: What aspect of Jesus to most look to? How could you celebrate it?

Actions: Does a person or group that you see as doing God's work and celebrate them in some way. ex. tell others about them, or/and tell them what you appreciate.

Wonder: Wonder what it would have been like (would be like) if the Palm Parade hadn't brought fear of political instability and if people (had) instead embraced Jesus' way?

Spirit Sighting

Along with our call to worship and opening prayer, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is providing us with stories of God's Spirit working through people. Presbyterian also shares a story on the Prayer Partners page.

Please see more on page 10.

Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on **our website**.

Just click the '[Donate Now](#)' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can now donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is [Kensington Presbyterian Church](#) and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) are also good options.

For those wanting to support Presbyterian World Service & Development or Presbyterian Sharing directly, you can reach them through our National Office.

presbyterian.ca (look under Our Ministry)

1-800-619-7301 (there's a receptionist during business hours)

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, Ont M3C 1J7

Prayers of the people

Today we talked about celebration, but the week ahead is 'Holy Week'. The week in which Jesus is betrayed, found unjustly guilty, and painfully killed. There is much darkness in the world that needs Christ's light. Some examples include:

- shootings of protesters in Myanmar and another school shooting in the States... and violence elsewhere that doesn't make the news. Christian Peacemaker Teams that go into conflict areas and provide a witness, as well as help find peaceful ways forward
- continued COVID fight: vaccines, health care workers, those suffering from isolation, those suffering economically... and those who are sick
- for university students heading towards the end of term

Lord Jesus Christ,

We come to you and celebrate that you are bringing justice, peace and healing to the world. We celebrate where we have those in our lives. . .

and we pray for places that need to know you more.

... over the broken glass of our world,

the rumours meant to hurt,
the prejudice meant to wound,
the weapons meant to kill,
ride on ...
trampling our attempts at disaster into dust.
Ride on, ride on in majesty

... over the distance which separates us from you,
and it is such a distance,
measurable in halftruths,
in unkept promises, in secondbest obedience,
ride on ...
until you touch and heal us, who feel for no one but ourselves.
Ride on, ride on in majesty

... through the back streets and neglected corners of the city,
where human life festers and love runs cold,
ride on ...
bringing hope and dignity where most send scorn and silence.
Ride on, ride on in majesty

For you, O Christ, do care and must show us how.
On our own, our ambitions rival your summons
and threatens good faith and neglects God's people.
In your company and at your side,
we might yet help to bandage
and heal the wounds of the world.
Ride on, ride on in majesty and take us with you.
Amen

♪ Hymn: Ride on, Ride on.....pg 12 (217)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo5pfl6z6lA>

✦ Benediction

*May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
Shine in our hearts, transform our lives,
and brighten the world.*

*And the blessing of God almighty,
rest upon you always.*

Amen.



Sunday, March 28

MISSION MOMENT

(Palm/Passion Sunday) When we turn off our lights during **Earth Hour**, we are reminded of the need to use the Earth's resources responsibly. We pray that we will carry this reminder throughout the year.

Providing Clean Water and Sanitation



Today, there are 4.2 billion people in the world who do not have access to sanitation services and 2.2 billion people who do not have safe, clean water to drink. Consequently, many people are at risk for waterborne diseases, such as cholera and diarrhea. The COVID-19 pandemic has made us even more aware of the importance of clean water, as handwashing is a crucial way to help curb the spread of disease. Presbyterian World Service & Development works with local partners to bring clean water and sanitation services to vulnerable communities. Clean water allows people to harvest crops, care for their families, expand their livelihoods and lead healthy, productive lives.

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, March 29 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Kootenay in B.C.

Tuesday, March 30 We pray for retired ministers and professional church workers, and for those preparing for retirement.

Wednesday, March 31 (Transgender Day of Visibility) We pray for the safety, dignity and well-being of all transgender people.

APRIL

Thursday, April 1 (Maundy Thursday) We give thanks for the leadership of the Rev. Amanda Currie while she served as Moderator and for the support of the Committee to Advise with the Moderator during her term and today as they count the ballots for the Moderator-Elect for the upcoming General Assembly.

Friday, April 2 (Good Friday) Let us pray for the church, and that God will keep it faithful in worship, humble in service, gracious in spirit, grounded in truth and persistent in proclaiming the good news of the gospel.

Saturday, April 3 (Holy Saturday) We pray for a spirit of encouragement for congregations as they seek ways to work with local churches and interfaith organizations.

A Long-Awaited Answer

In Nepal, Keshari Bohara wasn't sure why she felt numbness and had an ulcer on her hand. But one day the 58-year-old walked into the Shining Hospital and received the answers she had been waiting for. The hospital staff told Keshari that her symptoms were due to leprosy.

In Nepal, PWS&D's local partner, the Shining Hospital, ensures appropriate diagnosis and treatment for patients living with leprosy and tuberculosis.

Through their mobile outreach clinics, the project has served hundreds of patients in remote communities—mostly people like Keshari—living with undiagnosed skin conditions.

With the support of the Shining Hospital, Keshari is now taking the correct medication to treat her illness. She rejoices that her ulcer is getting better, thanks to the proper care and treatment she received at the hospital.

This Lenten season faithfully respond to provide more people like Keshari with access to proper health care that offers quick and accurate diagnosis.

WeRespond.ca



Praise him, praise him,
Jesus our blessed Redeemer

G C G

1. Praise him, praise him, Je-sus, our bless-ed Re-deem-er!
 2. Praise him, praise him, Je-sus, our bless-ed Re-deem-er!
 3. Praise him, praise him, Je-sus, our bless-ed Re-deem-er!

G/B Em A7 D

Sing, O earth, his won-der-ful love pro-claim!
 For our sins he suf-fered and bled and died;
 Heaven-ly por-tals loud with ho-san-nas ring!

G C G

Hail him, hail him, high-est arch-an-gels in glo-ry;
 he, our Rock, our hope of e-ter-nal sal-va-tion,
 Je-sus Sav-iour, reign-eth for-ev-er and ev-er;

G/B C Am G/D D7 G

strength and hon-our give to his ho-ly name!
 hail him, hail him! Je-sus the Cru-ci-fied.
 crown him, crown him, Pro-phet and Priest and King!

D G/D D 7 G/D D7 G/D D

Like a shep-herd, Je-sus will guard his chil-dren;
 Sound his prais-es! Je-sus who bore our sor-rows,
 Christ is com-ing, o-ver the world vic-to-ri-ous;

G A7 D

in his arms he car-ries them all day long.
 love un-bound-ed, won-der-ful, deep and strong.
 power and glo-ry un-to the Lord be-long.

Refrain G C

Praise him, praise him! Tell of his ex-cel-lent

G G7/B C G/D D G

great-ness; praise him, praise him, ev-er in joy-ful song!

Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820–1915) Music: Chester G. Allen (1838–1878) *Words: public domain Music: public domain*

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Hosanna

G D Em C

1. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high -
 2. Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry to the King of

1. D | 2. C D

est! kings! est! kings! Lord, we lift up your name

G C D G

with hearts full of praise;

C D G D/F# Em /D C D G

be ex - alt-ed, O Lord my God! Ho - san-na in the high - est!
 Glo-ry to the King of kings!

Words: Carl Tuttle Music: Carl Tuttle CCLI #44406031

Words: copyright © Mercy/Vineyard, 1985 Music: copyright © Mercy/Vineyard, 1985

Rev. Peter Rombeek
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

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Ride on, ride on in majesty

Bb /D Bb Eb Cm (/Bb) F/A F7 Bb

Ride on, ride on in maj - es - ty;

1. hark,
 2. in
 3. the
 4. the
 5. in

Eb/G Bb F Dm Bb C F (/Eb) Bb Cm6 Bb Eb /D

all the tribes Ho - san - na cry. O Sav - iour meek, pur -
 low - ly pomp ride on to die. O Christ, thy tri - umphs
 an - gel hosts be - yond the sky look down with sad and
 last and fierc - est strife is nigh. Thy Fa - ther on the
 low - ly pomp ride on to die. Bow thy meek head to

Cm7-6 Bb/D F Bb /D Eb Bb/D Gm Eb6 F Bb

sue thy road with palms and scat - tered gar - ments strewed.
 now be - gin o'er cap - tive death and con - quered sin.
 won - dering eyes to see the ap - proach - ing sac - ri - fice.
 sap - phire throne ex - pects thee, loved, a - noint - ed Son.
 mor - tal pain; then take, O God, thy power and reign.

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