



**Palm Sunday**  
**Why the colt?**

**Services – Sunday 2 April, 2023**

**Palm Sunday**

**9.30am** Five Dock

**Preacher:** Rev Wattson Pualilo

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

**Theme:** "What an Entrance!"

*We are glad to have you with us today in worship.*

*It is our hope that you will not only learn more about God, but that you will encounter Him and experience His presence, love and grace for you.*



Merciful God, as we enter Holy week, turn our hearts again to Jerusalem, and to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Stir up within us the gift of faith that we may not only praise him with our lips, but may follow him in the way of the cross.

**DIARY DATES**

**Monday 3 April** at 3pm

**Monday Afternoon Lenten Bible Study**

Our group will be meeting back in the Church, continuing with the Lenten Study.

**Theme:** 'Prophets from the Outside'

**Reading:** Luke 4: 14 – 30

**News from the Everharts**

Don and Francia are grandparents again.

Their daughter Karis gave birth to Lea Charlotte born March 3 in Geneva - sister to Gabriel who is 2.4 years.

Also Sarah has graduated from University.

They send their greetings to everyone.

**Easter Services**

Good Friday 7 April at **9.00 am**

Easter Sunday 9 April at 9.30 am



The second verse of the Hymn 'Trotting, trotting through Jerusalem' reads:

*"Many people in Jerusalem*

*Thought He should have come on a mighty horse*

*Leading all the Jews to battle*

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."*

So why did Jesus turn the tables and enter on a donkey's back and not on the mighty horse?

Firstly to fulfil Scripture, secondly to clearly mark the contrast between a donkey, the symbol of peace, humility and Davidic royalty and the mighty horse the symbol of war and finally and most importantly to proclaim publicly that He was the chosen Son of David to sit on David's throne.

Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem just a few days before His Death is recorded in all four gospels and all include the finer details of the donkey. Jesus was the one who directed this entry and He knew that prophecy needed to be fulfilled so He also attended to the finer details.

Matthew's gospel ensures that where prophecy was fulfilled he recorded it and so Matthew 21:5 quotes Zechariah 9:9 who prophesied more than 500 years before it happened:

*"See your King comes to you,*

*Righteous and having salvation*

*Gentle and riding on a donkey,*

*On a colt the foal of a donkey."*

So why this added detail of two animals from Matthew in verses 2 and 6?

William Henry in his commentary makes this interesting statement:

"Although Matthew does not include the detail of Mark 11:2 'a colt which had never been ridden' (referring back to Old Testament conditions of consecration to God) it may be assumed that he mentions the mother because she would be needed to calm the colt in the crowd and he needed to confirm that it was a colt the foal of a donkey which Jesus rode."

So 'Let us join the children singing:

*"Happy is He who comes in the name of the Lord"*

And make sure that we stay close to Him in this coming week never losing sight of what Jesus was about to do for each one of us.