



## ONLINE GATHERED CHURCH (Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2021)

Dear Church Family,

Last weekend saw the official arrival of Spring. However as I write this letter there is a cold wind blowing and a torrential downpour outside of the church, anything but a lovely spring day. And yet despite the dark clouds and the rain I am aware of the fact that Spring is here and the warm sunshine is coming. Today we celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey just a few days before his cruel and barbaric crucifixion. The crowds of people lining the streets in jubilant celebration and praise were most probably oblivious to what was coming in a matter of days. In just the same way that on that first Easter Saturday following Jesus' death the majority of those same people didn't know the glorious resurrection was also coming! In 2021 we have over 2 millennia of hindsight that those witnessing the events of the first Easter week didn't have. Yes we know that Jesus faced the cruel death of the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, but we also know with absolute certainty that Christ rose from the dead – he is risen indeed, hallelujah!

So as we gather virtually to remember and celebrate Palm Sunday today we lift up our praise to the Lord for the cross of Christ and all that this means for us as forgiven, grace-filled and Holy Spirit filled children of God. We are gathered to offer up our prayers and to listen to the voice of God through the scriptures. We gather to learn more of God's gifts in us and how we can use them to bring glory to him and people to Jesus.

A couple of practical things in preparation for the service: the clocks go forward an hour on Saturday night, so if you want to be watching the video at the same time as everyone else, make sure you reset the clock. And also Katy Horrocks our Deacon for Worship who is leading our service today invites you to bring an apple and a knife to cut it with, if you and your family would like to join in with the All-Age story near the start of the service.

Here's the link to the service:

<http://www.bluntishambaptist.org/index.php/Ministries/virtual-church>

Please do join us after the service video has ended in our Zoom Coffee rooms from 11.45am.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim".