

## Sunday 29 March 2026 Cooma Anglican Janet Stalvies Celebration of Life/HC 3

### Welcome

Grace and peace from the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

On this Palm Sunday, in addition to celebrating Jesus triumphantly riding into Jerusalem on a donkey the week before he was crucified on a cross for our salvation, we have come together to thank God for the life of Janet Stalvies, to mourn and honour her, and to support one another in grief. We face the certainty of our own death and judgement, yet Christians believe that all those who die in Christ share eternal life in him. Therefore in faith and hope we turn to God who created and sustains us all.

### Hymn: TIS 333 All Glory, praise and honour

Refrain: All glory, praise and honour, to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

1 You are the king of Israel, and David's royal son,  
now in the Lord's name coming, our king and blessed one. [Refrain]

2 The company of angels are praising you on high,  
while we and all creation exultant make reply. [Refrain]

3 The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. [Refrain]

4 To you before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise:  
to you now high exalted our melody we raise. [Refrain]

5 Their praises you accepted: accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good take pleasure, our good and gracious king. [Refrain]

### Sentence of Scripture

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!" John 12:13

### Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, of your tender love towards us you sent your Son, our saviour Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death on the cross, that we may be united with him and all the faithful and one day enter with all the faithful may enter with triumph the city not made with human hands; the new Jerusalem, eternal in the heavens, where with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in glory forever. **Amen**

### Celebration of the life of Janet Stalvies

Please Pray with me: **Loving God, you alone are the source of life. May your life giving Spirit flow through us and fill us with compassion, one for another. In our sorrow at Janet's death, give us the calm of your peace. Kindle our hope, and let our grief give way to joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen**

### Eulogies

In the Book of Revelation in the Bible, Jesus says: *Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*

In the Bible, in the gospel of John, Jesus says:

*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.*

John 11:25

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving for Janet and those who mourn her**

Let us pray with confidence to God our Father, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead for the salvation of everyone who puts their trust in him.

### **We thank you for the life of Janet**

Thanks be to God for the gift of life, you have made us in your own image, And called us to reflect your truth and light.

We thank you that you received Janet into the family of your church here on earth, and granted her the gift of eternal life through Christ our saviour.

We give thanks for Janet's parents and friends; her students, for all she knew and loved, and loved her in return. We give thanks for Janet's contribution to the community, through teaching, through her church, and through all the other ways she helped so many other people, both seen and unseen.

Above all, we thank you for your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall be made one again in our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen**

### **Prayer for those who mourn**

God of all mercy, giver of all comfort, Look graciously we pray for all those who mourn at this time,

Casting all their cares on you because our loss is so keen.

When we cannot understand the things that happen, and are weighed down by grief and loneliness, give us the assurance of your constant care, and the consolation of your love, that we may have courage for the days ahead. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Quiet time of reflection on Janet's life**

#### **Farewell**

Lord Jesus Christ, you gave new birth to our sister Janet by water and the Spirit

Grant that her death may recall to us your victory over death,

and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love.

Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way

to live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

to the ages of ages. **Amen**

Let us farewell Janet with the words of the prayer:

**Holy and loving Father,**

**By your mighty power you gave us life,**

**and in your love you have given us new life in Christ Jesus.**

**We entrust Janet to your merciful keeping:**

**In the faith of Jesus Christ, who died and rose to save us,**

**and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever. Amen**

In Peter's first letter in the Bible it says:

*<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.*

**Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

### **Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."**

<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> **This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.**

<sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> **The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;**

<sup>23</sup> the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> **The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.**

<sup>25</sup> LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success!

<sup>26</sup> **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.**

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup> **You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.**

<sup>29</sup> **Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.**

### **John 12:12-19**

<sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the king of Israel!"

<sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written: <sup>15</sup> "Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

<sup>16</sup> At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that these things had been done to him.

<sup>17</sup> Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. <sup>18</sup> Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" John 12:12-19

### **Sermon**

## The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world and the church

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

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

**Give us today our daily bread. 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 for ever. Amen.**

## Scripture Sentence

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 1 Corinthians 11:26-28

## The Confession

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together:

**Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.**

**We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us.**

**By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God is slow to anger and full of compassion, forgiving all who humbly repent and trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord. God therefore forgives you in Christ Jesus, in whom there is no condemnation. **Amen**

## Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

## Hymn -TIS 244 - Trotting, Trotting, Trotting

Trotting, trotting through Jerusalem.

Jesus sitting on a donkey's back.

Children waving branches, singing.

*Happy is he that comes in the name of the Lord.*

Many people in Jerusalem.

Thought he should have come on a mighty horse.

Lead his nation into battle.

*Happy is he that comes in the name of the Lord.*

Many people in Jerusalem.

Were amazed to see such a quiet man.

Trotting, trotting on a donkey.

*Happy is he that comes in the name of the Lord.*

Trotting, trotting through Jerusalem.

Jesus sitting on a donkey's back.

Let us all join in the singing.

*Happy is he that comes in the name of the Lord.*

### **Thanksgiving for Offering**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, making us in your own image. We praise you for your son, our saviour Jesus Christ, who by his death on the cross and rising to new life offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. Therefore, we lift our voices to praise you, saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, gracious God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine, and pray that we who receive them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit according to our Saviour's word, in remembrance of his suffering and death, may share his body and his blood.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying 'Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you.

We who are many are one body in Christ, **for we all share in the one bread.**

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying 'Drink from this all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' We eat this bread and drink this cup **to proclaim the death of the Lord.** We do this until he returns. **Come, Lord Jesus!**

Father, as we recall his saving death and glorious resurrection, may we who share these gifts be renewed by the Holy Spirit, and united in the body of your Son. Bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom, there to feast at your table and join in your eternal praise.

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive praise and honour and glory and power forever and ever. Amen**

### **The Holy Communion**

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

### **After Communion**

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

### Notices

#### Hymn - TIS 348 - Ride on, ride on in majesty

1 Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
hark, all the tribes hosanna cry!  
O Saviour meek, pursue your road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

2 Ride on, ride on in majesty,  
in lowly pomp ride on to die.  
O Christ, your triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

3 Ride on, ride on in majesty;  
the winged squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wondering eyes  
to see the approaching sacrifice.

4 Ride on, ride on in majesty:  
your last and fiercest strife is nigh;  
the Father on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed Son.

5 Ride on, ride on in majesty,  
in lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow your meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O Christ, your power and reign.

### Blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

### Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## Sermon John 12:12-19 Worshiping the foretold King

I have known Janet ever since I came to Cooma two and a half years ago. The whole time I have known her, she has been very sure of her faith in Jesus Christ. She has known that Jesus loves her, and died on the cross that she might have eternal life. This truth is very important to her, and it was very important to her that this truth was proclaimed at every opportunity, because everyone needs to hear it, believe it, and have the eternal life that Jesus died for. That is why Janet didn't want a formal funeral, she preferred that people hear the gospel, the truth about Jesus, in a normal church service, rather than have a service that was all about her. That is why this celebration of Janet's life is in this service, and not only are we reminded what God has done specifically in Janet's life, we are also reminded what Jesus has done for the whole world. On this day in particular, which the church calls Palm Sunday, we are reminded how Jesus came to Jerusalem the week before he was brutally executed for our sins on Good Friday, and how the crowds worshipped him on that day, and how we should worship him today, in our lives.

As we heard in our gospel reading from the Bible, Jesus came to Jerusalem at the same time as crowds of people were flocking there to celebrate the Jewish festival called Passover. This was the most important festival in the Jewish calendar, and Jews, then and now, remembered how God saved them from slavery in Egypt, and from the plagues that God sent on all of the Egyptians who wouldn't let them go. The angel of God who afflicted the Egyptians with these plagues literally passed over the houses of the Jews who had put lamb blood on their door frames. In effect, the Israelites were saved by the blood of these lambs.

As I said, this was the biggest celebration in the Jewish calendar, and Jewish faithful were flocking to Jerusalem to join in the celebrations. These crowds heard that Jesus, who was quite a celebrity from the miracles he had done, was also going to Jerusalem. Many in the crowds thought that he was the long expected Messiah - the one who had been foretold in the Old Testament who they thought would re-establish Israel to the glory they thought it deserved, and the glory they knew its God deserved. They were quite keen for this Messiah to come, because Israel was under the dominion of the Roman empire, and they thought that the Messiah would throw them out.

That's basically the background to Palm Sunday, and I want to talk about what the crowds were doing and shouting. They took branches of Palm Trees, and it was kind of like the ticker-tape parade that Americans throw for sporting heroes. It was their way of honouring triumphant kings.

John then says that the crowds shouted three things:

The first was a Hebrew phrase **Hosannah**: , probably pronounced *hōšâ-nā*, and which means 'save us - we beg.' They could have just shouted hoshia - save us, but they used the much more emphatic term - "save us, we beg!" They expected the Messiah to save them from Roman rule, and so that's what they were begging the Messiah to do, to save them - and they were begging him to boot.

The next thing they shouted was "**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!**" They expected that the Messiah would not only represent their Lord God, but by coming in the

name of the Lord, they expected the Messiah to come with the authority and power of God. God's name was so important in that culture because they believed that knowing it gave you the authority and power of its owner, and God had ultimate power and authority. Even today, the Jews will not actually say God's name, the name that God told Moses, because they do not want to misuse it. Even though it is written in their scriptures - our Old Testament, when reading it out loud, whenever they see it they substitute the phrase 'the Lord'. By shouting that Jesus was he who comes in the name of the Lord - of God himself, they are really building up Jesus. They are saying he comes with the power and authority of God himself, with ultimate power and authority. Then, the last thing that John says they shouted was 'The King of Israel.' In human terms, they expected that whoever would throw out the Romans would have to be their king, and in order to throw them out, even this king would need God's power and authority. So this is the king they were begging to save them from the Romans.

There was even more to this king that they were expecting. It seems a little strange to us, but Jesus doesn't ride into Jerusalem on a great war horse, or in a mighty chariot like you would expect a conquering King to do. He rode in on a young donkey, the cult of a donkey. John, the gospel writer, helpfully points us to a passage from the Old Testament by the prophet Zechariah, chapter 9 verse 9, which foretells this and says:

<sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Jesus very deliberately entered into Jerusalem on this donkey, to demonstrate who he was. He is the king who Zechariah foretells will bring ultimate peace, will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the warhorses from Jerusalem, and break the battle bow. He will proclaim peace to the nations, and his rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. All impressive stuff, but when we get to verse 11, we see that something really special is happening. Zechariah continues: "<sup>11</sup> As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit." It isn't just human, national enemies that the king is defeating, Zechariah is foretelling that in the last days, this king will bring judgement on all of God's enemies, no matter how rich they are, how skilful in war they are, how powerful they are, and save God's people by the blood of his covenant from a figurative waterless pit - an image of hell., Never again will an oppressor overrun God's people, for God is keeping watch. (Zechariah 9:8).

Jesus is not only foretold by Zechariah, as I mentioned earlier, our Psalm, 118 foretells that he, the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the one the crowds were worshipping with branches in hand in festal procession, is their God, and they praise their God, and they exalt him. He is God, and his love endures forever.

Now, you may be thinking to yourself that things didn't exactly seem to work out the way Zechariah and the Psalmist foretold. Wasn't Jesus humiliated and executed on a Roman cross, less than a week after this Palm Sunday? He didn't seem to destroy all of God's enemies, and he certainly didn't throw out the Romans. How could he be this foretold king, the saviour who came in the name of the Lord?

The reality is that Jesus wasn't the Messiah, at least not in the way the crowds were expecting. He wasn't to be king in the way the crowds were expecting. If you don't understand this, you are in good company, John tells us that at first his **disciples did not even understand all this**. Despite that, John, the author of the gospel, as well as Jesus's other disciples, and billions of Christians over the last 2000 or so years, including many of us, and also Janet, believed that Jesus is the Messiah, the King, the one who brings judgement of all God's enemies and who defeats death, as Zechariah says, by the blood of his covenant.

Jesus wasn't the Messiah that they were expecting, and maybe he isn't the Messiah, God's conquering king that you expect. However, he is the Messiah that God the father foretold throughout the Old Testament, and God's plans were never going to fail. They may not work out the way we expect, but that is a problem with our expectations, not God's plans. Jesus is the Son of God, he is worthy of all honour, power and praise, and he is the complete and perfect fulfilment of all God's plans for the ultimate defeat of death and for my salvation, for Janet's salvation and even for your salvation. Our understanding, like the crowds and the disciples on the first Palm Sunday may not be perfect, but Jesus can save us, he is the blessed one who comes in the name of the Lord, and is the Blessed King of Kings - and worthy of all worship.

Let us all worship him the way the first Palm Sunday crowds did, with the words on the screen.

Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

Amen