

Opening Prayer (together)

Today we begin the final stages of the journey through Lent. We go with Jesus into Jerusalem. We join with those who celebrate, honor and promise to follow him all the way.

But they will not. When the days of celebration turn to struggle, and the struggle turns to hardship, then threat, then loss, then death; one by one they will disappear; fall away; lose heart.

Will we?

Help us, Holy One, to stay the course. Give us the strength, courage and trust to stay faithful to what You call us to do in times of struggle. Help us to stay committed to what needs to be done for the good of Your people when the road becomes longer and more difficult to travel. Help us to follow Jesus' way of compassion and sacrifice through all our hardest journeys.

And with His life of courage, strength, compassion and sacrifice to inspire and guide us, let us say together now the words He gave us...

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Duet*"In the Cross of Christ We Glory"*

Howe

Rebecca Shrimpton and Paul Knox, vocalists

In the cross of Christ we glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time,
all the light of sacred story gathers 'round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er take us, hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake us – Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon our way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

Prayer Intentions**Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer****Music Meditation***"In the Mornin'"*

Spiritual, arr. Ives

Rebecca Shrimpton, soloist

In the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin' when I rise, in the mornin'
when I rise, give me Jesus!

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus; you can have all the world, but give me
Jesus!

'Twixt the cradle and the grave, 'twixt the cradle and the grave, 'twixt the cradle and the grave, give me Jesus!

Give me Jesus, give me Jesus; you can have all the world, but give me Jesus!

The Gospels

Mark 11:1-11; 12:1-9

(Common English Bible Translation)

¹ When Jesus and his followers approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives. Jesus gave two disciples a task, ² saying to them, "Go into the village over there. As soon as you enter it, you will find tied up there a colt that no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'Its master needs it, and he will send it back right away.'"

⁴ They went and found a colt tied to a gate outside on the street, and they untied it. ⁵ Some people standing around said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶ They told them just what Jesus said, and they left them alone. ⁷ They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes upon it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread out their clothes on the road while others spread branches cut from the fields. ⁹ Those in front of him and those following were shouting, "*Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord*" ¹⁰ Blessings on the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. After he looked around at everything, because it was already late in the evening, he returned to Bethany with the Twelve...

¹ Jesus spoke to them in parables. "A man planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a pit for the winepress, and built a tower. Then he rented it to tenant farmers and took a trip. ² When it was time, he sent a servant to collect from the tenants his share of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ But they grabbed the servant, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed.

⁴ Again the landowner sent another servant to them, but they struck him on the head and treated him disgracefully. ⁵ He sent another one; that one they killed. The landlord sent many other servants, but the tenants beat some and killed others.

⁶ Now the landowner had one son whom he loved dearly. He sent him last, thinking, They will respect my son. ⁷ But those tenant farmers said to each other, 'This is the heir. Let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.' ⁸ They grabbed him, killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard.

⁹ "So what will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.

Message

Solo

"The Holy City"

Adams

Rebecca Shrimpton, Soloist

Last night I lay asleeping There came a dream so fair.
I stood in old Jerusalem, Beside the temple there;
I heard the children singing, and ever as they sang;
methought the voice of Angels, from Heaven in answer rang:

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Lift up your gates and sing,
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna to your King!"
And then methought my dream was changed -
the streets no longer rang. Hushed were the glad Hosannas
the little children sang. The sun grew dark with mystery,
the morn was cold and chill as the shadow of a cross arose
upon a lonely hill.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem! Hark! How the Angels sing,
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to your King!"

Blessing

Closing

"God Be in My Head"

Davies

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and after my departing.

- Manchester Affordable Housing Trust Announces Emergency Rental Housing Payment Assistance - The Manchester Affordable Housing Trust (MAHT), in collaboration with Action, Inc., a Gloucester-based human and social services agency, is offering short-term rental housing payment assistance to income eligible Manchester residents in response to job and income loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Consistent with its mission to support and promote community affordable housing, the MAHT is reaching out to income eligible residents who are experiencing housing rent payment issues.

The MAHT can and wants to help during this difficult and uncertain time. For further information please contact Action, Inc. at 978-282-1000 or live chat at www.actioninc.org<<http://www.actioninc.org>.