

Sermon preached by Revd Rachel McDougall

St Paul's Canterbury

Palm Sunday A

Sunday 5th April 2020

Look your king is coming to you.

Look your king is coming to you.

Look your king is coming to you humble, with his face set like flint.

Look your king is coming to you silent, saying nothing to prevent his fate.

Look your king emptied himself whilst power washes its hands and crowds own up to violence.

Look your king is handed over, stripped and mocked.

Look your king is silent, crucified.

Look Jesus cries My God, My God, forsaken, and breathes his last.

What upheavals this causes, rocks split and earthquakes, cataclysm and catastrophe.

Look your God walks God's way, dies his death, resolute, no matter the turmoil that surrounds him, not hiding himself, sustaining and redeeming in tender love.

In the chaos that surrounds us Jesus is, now.

Jesus walks his way, suffers with our suffering, loves us in our fear, our chaos, our uncertainty.

Look your God is here now, suffering, sighing, dying for us, with us.

In these uncertain days only a suffering God can help, one who walks with us, who shares our pain, who dies our death, who points beyond.

Jesus chose the way of suffering love, of forsakenness, of deep darkness. Jesus is God-with-us even here, in these dark days of uncertainty.

Look your God is within our hearts, this suffering God shows us the way, that his heart is love that lets go, that teaches us how to love in these days and how to be loved.

Look your God is here, drawing us see the marks of his love in all who suffer, in all who gasp and sigh.

This God, our God suffers for us and with us and opens us up to love others and find hope.

Look your God comes to you now, is here in tender love.

May you for love's sake see and know and love and put your trust in God's hands who gave himself for us to his last breath.

Love for love's sake. Trust and hope in the one with us. Amen.