

All Age Talks at All Saints Anglican Church, Luxembourg

Given by Rev Geoff Read on Palm Sunday 2026

Bible passage: John 12:12-19

Before the reading

Bring your imagination - what can you see, and hear, smell and feel - what is ground like, where are you in the crowd, can you imagine the noise of shouting getting louder and louder as Jesus approaches on ... a donkey!



After a big outdoors event

Walk the streets, what do you see?

People ought not to drop things, but they do

Cans, paper,

If you'd been there that first Palm Sunday after Jesus had gone on and entered the temple, the crowd had gone home: what might you see on the ground?

Palm branches - people had wanted something to wave, so pulled off palm leaves from the trees. But they may also have taken and recycled the packaging often used for food at that time - palm leaves

Coats - at the Oscars important people walk along what? Maybe this was like that. But not rolled out by the organisers. Coats or cloaks were a precious thing. People used them not only outside but also inside as a blanket to sleep in. And usually in those days a person only had one. So what would someone be saying by taking something like that and using it to make a carpet?

Donkey poop - as people shout Hosanna - God saves, the gospel write makes the connection to an OT prophecy about a King coming - but not on a huge horse like a winning soldier, but on a donkey the animal people thought of as about peace

As you look on the ground again, what's that?

Something gleaming - a knife - it's the sort used by the resistance groups called the Zealots, the ones who hoped Jesus would be a political leader, throw out the occupying Romans but in fact who brings a different sort of Kingdom and is different sort of King - I wonder why this knife has been dropped?

Perhaps someone changed their mind?

Stones - Jesus had said that the stones along the way would cry out, but also carefully chosen stones, picked up to by the pharisees to punish and silence those who they believed were wrong - but I wonder, why these stones have been dropped?

Perhaps someone changed their mind?

Footprints - people there who had heard the crowd and joined in, but also especially those who had experienced Jesus love - Martha, Mary and Lazarus, blind Bartimaeus, a cripple from the Temple pool, who have heard His call - Come, follow me



Some of these things have been left behind because **people no longer want or need** them like the **stones and the knives**

Some, of things, like the **coats and palm branches** express people's **desire, love and worship** for a new sort of King

Some things, like the **footprints** show **people on a journey**, following on behind the One who says Come follow me

I wonder, if you had been there at that first Palm Sunday: what would you have left behind?