

## Palm Sunday reflection 2021

This week has marked the first anniversary of lockdown. A full year of restrictions due to the global coronavirus pandemic; a time to mourn for those we've lost and reflect on how much has changed in our lives. At the same time, lockdown restrictions are beginning to ease, the vaccine rollout continues apace and with the clocks going forward, summer is on the way. These feel like small signs of hope.

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowd cried 'Hosanna!' and threw down their cloaks and branches on the road in celebration. This was a hopeful time too where many joined in praising Jesus. What words and actions might we use to praise God this week?

When the crowd laid their cloaks on the ground, this was an extravagant gesture as part of celebrating the hope that Jesus brings. During this pandemic, we've seen incredible new acts of generosity, through extraordinary efforts to raise money for our health services or to support the vulnerable. Familiar giving still happens too, such as the fundraising event for [Comic Relief](#) last week. What opportunities might you have this week to be extravagant in your giving to others?

In the coming days you may travel a little further, or see a few more people and these experiences will be both new and familiar. Take time to look around, ask God to help you notice familiar faces and places, paying attention to new feelings or experiences. How can you be generous towards those you meet, perhaps taking time to show thankfulness to friends or family that you may not have seen for some time? And how can you continue praising God as you notice these things and journey towards Easter?

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From 'Roots on the web'

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