

Messy Easter Church celebration and children and family talk 2021

Hello everyone, welcome to our special Messy Easter celebration and children and family worship space, and Happy Easter! Let's really praise God as we sing:

Shout for Joy and Sing

**Shout for joy and sing your praises to the King,
Lift your voice and let your hallelujahs ring;
Come before His throne to worship and adore,
Enter joyfully now the presence of the Lord.**

**You are my creator, you are my deliverer,
You are my redeemer, you are Lord,
And you are my healer
You are my provider,
You are now my shepherd and my guide,
Jesus, Lord and King, I worship you.**

David Fellingham SOF 496 Copyright 1988 Kingsway's thankyou music.

I hope you have all been busy making and doing with the activities and crafts from your Messy Church bags at home. Today is a very special day, it's called Easter Sunday and is the day we celebrate Jesus coming back to life. But there is a fair bit of the story we have missed if we jump right to Jesus coming back to life. So, let's go back to last Sunday when we saw Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey... *(with puppets)*

Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover with his friends. He rode on a donkey.

A crowd followed them. They waved palm branches and shouted: "Hosanna! Blessed is the King!"

Jesus and his friends ate the Passover feast together. It was a meal to remember God rescuing his people.

During this meal, Jesus broke bread and said, "this is my body given for you, remember me when you do this".

Later in the meal, Jesus held the wine cup and said, "This is my life poured out for you."

After the meal, Jesus went to a garden to pray. There he was arrested, put in prison and then left to die on a cross.

Jesus' body was put inside a tomb. A large rock was put in front of it and two soldiers guarded it.

Very early in the morning, women found that the rock had been rolled away and Jesus' body had gone.

Then two men dressed in clothes as bright as lightening stood beside them. They said: "Jesus is not here! He is risen!"

You can find this written in more depth in your Bible in Luke chapters 19 to 24.

Let's sing again:

Majesty

**Majesty, worship His majesty,
Unto Jesus be glory honour and praise.
Majesty, Kingdom authority,
Flow from His throne, unto His own,
His anthem raise.**

**So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus,
Magnify, come glorify, Christ Jesus the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all Kings.**

What a difficult time this was for everyone. Jesus' special friends had got to know Jesus quite well by now. They had seen him perform miracles, heal people, and even bring people back to life, but they still hadn't understood what Jesus meant when he said he would be leaving them. It was all a big shock.

The people who had been following Jesus thought they knew who Jesus was, they had heard him saying wonderful things and had heard about the miracles he had performed, they thought he was going to rescue them from the nasty Romans. But when he was arrested, they turned against him.

The two women who were part of Jesus' friends, were so sad when Jesus died, they went to his tomb to prepare Jesus' body as was their custom. What a shock they had when he wasn't there!

And Jesus, who knew everything he had to go through and understood that it was all part of the bigger plan, still had to go through all the bad things that happened, before God's plan could come to pass. A very difficult time.

But what a brilliant end this story has – Jesus does come back to life! He talks, walks and eats with his special friends and then gives them all jobs to do. But it's not the end of the story. No, it is just the beginning, and as Christians we carry on this story, by continuing the work that Jesus gave his special friends, to go out into the whole world and spread the good

news, the news that Jesus has saved us from all the bad things that we do, we are forgiven and God loves us and wants to be a big part of our lives if we can accept Jesus is Lord.

Talking to God:

Lord Jesus,

Thankyou for what you did for us. You gave your life so that we could be forgiven. This is hard for us to understand.

Help us to believe, and in our belief to come to you.

Help us to spread your good news to those who don't know you.

And thankyou for all the good things you have given us.

Amen.

Before I go, I'd just like to remind you if you would like to join in our Sundayclub zoom sessions, you will need the link, so please phone or message me. 07511950633.

Prayers and blessings.

Let's all do the Grace together, follow me for the actions

Messy Grace: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *(Hold out hands as if expecting a present)* And the love of God *(Put your hands on your heart)*

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit *(Hold hands)*

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! *(raise hands together on the Amen)*