Palm Sunday Prayer Stations

These reflective prayer stations were set up for a 'Sunday Sanctuary' service, with space and time to dwell deeply on the Palm Sunday story.

This was an evening service attended by teenagers and adults, but you could probably adapt them for an all age context. We started our time by giving some instructions about how to use each station, opening in prayer and reading through the Luke 19:28-41, the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem.

We had approx. 45 minutes to explore the stations, with a mix of silence and a gentle acoustic song to encourage moving to another station. People spent about 5-7 mins on each one, before we wrapped it all up in prayer. We also had a separate prayer corner for anyone wanting personal prayer and anointing with oil.

Station 1: These rocks will cry out

In Luke 19:40, the text includes Jesus saying to his disciples: "If they kept quiet, the stones will cry out!". This prayer station stops to consider who we say Jesus is, and how we can share the good news of Jesus with others.

What you need:

- A collection of different shapes and types of rocks.
- Instructions

Station 2: Mary Oliver Poem

This beautiful poem is written from the perspective of the donkey, called 'The Poet thinks about the Donkey'

What you need:

- Print out the poem - https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/2021/3/23/the-poet-thinks-about-the-donkey-by-mary-oliver
- Instructions

Station 3: Lectio Station

Print out copies of the two stories of Jesus entering into Jerusalem in your favourite versions. We have chosen to use the NLT and the CEV, but you may prefer another one. Allow people to read through the story and highlight any moments of encounter in the story, or words that stand out for them.

What you need:

- Luke 19:28-40 and Mark 11:1-11 printed out large, and individual copies for people to write on.
- Instructions

Station 4: Leadership in the Way of Jesus

In this prayer station, we consider the ways in which Jesus showed he was a king. As he rode into Jerusalem, the crowds called out in praise – yet he was a humble, self-emptying king, an unlikely leader. We hung image so various leaders on a makeshift washing line and pegged on the pictures to create a focal point to look at.

You will need:

- Print out some pictures of people who are leaders – you can choose some local politicians, young leaders, monarchy, church leaders.
- A way of displaying these images – string and pegs, or Blu-Tack.
- Instructions

Station 5: Visio Divina

A collection of images of Jesus riding into Jerusalem, from a range of artistic styles and forms. Blu-Tack these to a wall, or lay them out for people to engage with. This Visio Divina prayer lets us focus on the visual medium to see what stands out, to imagine ourselves in the story, and to wonder.

What you need:

- 10-15 images of Jesus riding into Jerusalem, we sourced a range through an image search on Google and Pinterest. Pinterest boards like this one are a good source of multiple images: https://www.pinterest.nz/revjoelle/christs-entry-into-jerusalem/
- Instructions

Image sources for pictures above:

- Ukrainian artist Oleksandr Antonyuk,
- ‘Hosanna in the Highest’, Hanna-Cheriyan Varghese (1938-2009)
- BAME Anglican