

**THE WONDER OF  
WORSHIP:  
PALM SUNDAY!**

***MATTHEW 21:1-17***

***Rev. Jules Ngangmeni***

**BRIDGE TO LIFE MINISTRIES** a Wesleyan Church

Wednesday April 1, 2019 Bible Study

**YOUR KING IS  
COMING! (Matt. 21:1-  
17)**



# INTRODUCTION

## Funny Story about Palm Sunday

### Palm Sunday

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5 year old Sammy stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Sammy inquired as to what they were for. 'People held them over Jesus' head as he walked by,' his father responded.

'Wouldn't you just know it?' Sammy complained, 'the one Sunday I don't go and he shows up.'

# INTRODUCTION

## Palm Reading

For Palm Sunday I was thinking about printing Bible verses of the resurrection on palm fronds. But I reconsidered after realizing the reading palms was against scripture. (Deut. 18:10)

Kindly sent in by Pastor Fred

# INTRODUCTION

**Palm Sunday** is a Christian holiday. As you might have guessed from the name, it's on a Sunday — always the Sunday before Easter. That's because it's meant to commemorate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem, also a week before Easter Sunday.

**Palm leaves** (also know as palm fronds) are important on this day. It is said people lined the streets with the leaves to welcome Jesus.

Those are the basics of the holiday, but people around the world have very different ways of celebrating it.

<https://www.cbc.ca/kidscbc2/the-feed/10-ways-people-celebrate-palm-sunday-around-the-world>

**I. PALM SUNDY AROUND**  
**THE WORLD:**



**LIST  
IT!**

# I. PALM SUNDAY: POLAND



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*Young boy holds colorful decorations for Palm Sunday in Lyse, Poland.*

Palm trees don't grow in Poland so people make artificial palm leaves, decorating them with tissue paper flowers and ribbons. Some of these fake palms can be higher than 30 meters and need multiple people to carry them! There are competitions for the best ones.

# I. PALM SUNDAY: PHILIPPINES



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*Devotees hold their palm fronds (that's another word for leaf of a palm tree or fern plant) during Palm Sunday mass in Manila, Philippines.*

People in the Philippines will decorate and weave palm fronds into complicated shapes, called **palaspas** (say 'pal-a-spawce'). They're blessed at a church and brought home for luck.

# I. PALM SUNDAY: NORWAY



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*A ski lodge in the mountains of Norway.*

People in Norway decorate their homes with birch twigs and painted eggs for Palm Sunday. Lots of places have the week before Easter off and people will travel to cottages for skiing, reading and family time.

# I. PALM SUNDAY: THE NETHERLANDS



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*Bread made in the shape of a rooster for Palm Sunday.*

Chicks and eggs are common symbols of Easter, but in the Netherlands, it's all about the rooster. In some towns, kids have a procession where they carry crosses decorated with ribbons and, on top, a rooster made out of bread.

# I. PALM SUNDAY: LATVIA



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*The catkins, the furry part of the pussy willow, appear in early spring.*

Pussy willows are a lot easier to find in Latvia than palms, so the day is known as Pussy Willow Sunday. Parents even wake kids up on the Sunday with pretend swats from the willow branches!

# I. PALM SUNDAY: HAITI



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*A little girl stands beside decorative palm fronds during Palm Sunday.*

Many celebrations on the island of Haiti are a mixture of Catholic and local Voodoo traditions, involving processions and travelling bands playing drums, maracas and trumpets.

# I. PALM SUNDAY: FINLAND



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*Children of Finland dress up as witches and go door-to-door.*

Trick-or-treating isn't just for Halloween! In Finland, kids dress up as Easter witches and go round to houses offering willow branches in exchange for candy.

# I. PALM SUNDAY: ETHIOPIA



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*Ethiopian women hold palm leaves congregate outside of church on Palm Sunday.*

Christians in Ethiopia call Palm Sunday **Hosanna** (say 'ho-san-nah'), after the cheer people were said to have greeted Jesus with when he arrived. People weave palm fronds into elaborate rings to wear on the day.

# I. PALM SUNDAY: BULGARIA



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*In Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, young women dance during Palm Sunday.*

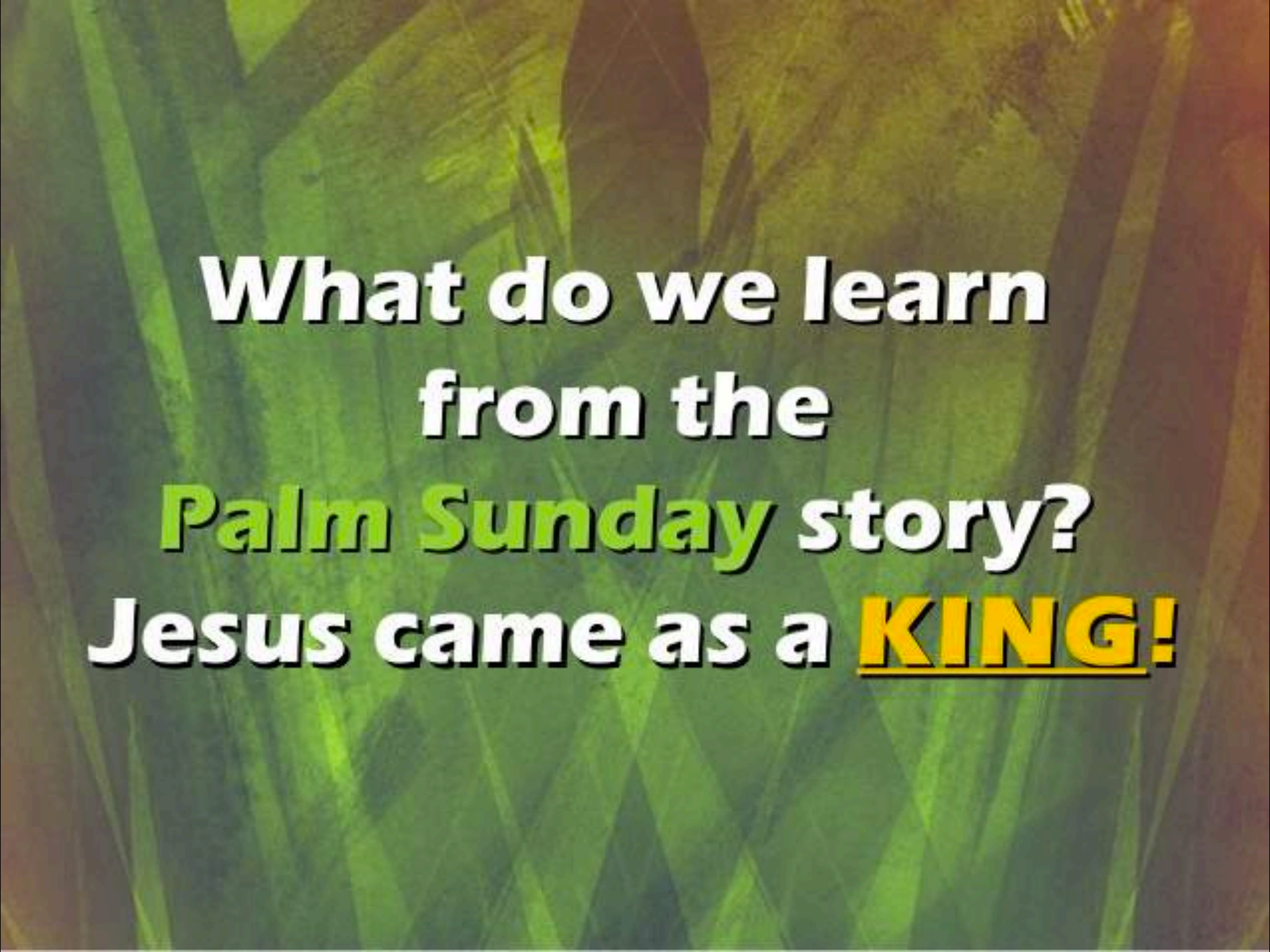
Willow branches are a big part of the celebration in Bulgaria along with flowers. Palm Sunday is more often called Flower Day because of all the springtime blooms. People will make wreaths of pussy willows and flowers and decorate their homes, often having big family dinners on the day.

# II. JESUS, A DIFFERENT KIND OF KING:

*(Help from Plymouth Meeting E. C.  
Church)*



**ZECHARIAH 9:9-12**



**What do we learn  
from the  
Palm Sunday story?  
Jesus came as a KING!**

**King Jesus was not  
your ORDINARY king  
or ruler. (vs. 5, 7)**

Most kings enjoy an aura  
of **POWER**, despite  
obvious weaknesses;  
they seek to **PRESERVE**  
power.



King Jesus rides a **DONKEY**, to signify his **HUMILITY** and style of leadership and rejection of earthly kingship or power.

**Most kings aren't  
that certain about  
themselves or are  
PROUD.**



**Jesus knew He was the MESSIAH, foretold by the prophets. He acted the part on Palm Sunday to PROVOKE the leaders in Jerusalem.**



**King Jesus cared about  
the HURTING poor  
and LOST. (Matt.  
23:37)**

**Worldly leaders  
are expected to  
be STRONG  
and manly.**



Jesus was a King who  
**CARED** for people  
and **WEPT** for  
Jerusalem. (Matt.  
23:37)

**King Jesus wants to**  
**TRANSFORM your**  
**life. (Isa. 53:3-7)**



**King Jesus warns of  
**JUDGMENT** to come.  
(Matt. 24:1-13, 44-51)**



**His  
compassion is  
not self-  
serving or  
gratuitous.**



**He says the wages of  
sin is DEATH**



**He says you will stand  
accountable before  
GOD.**




**He predicts domestic  
breakdown,  
catastrophes, and  
WAR.**

**King Jesus demands a**  
**RESPONSE.**


**Hosannah (21:9) =**  
**SAVE us now!**

**Will you welcome Him**  
**as your King?**

A graphic design for Palm Sunday. The background is a dark, textured green with vertical brushstrokes. In the center is a large, white, irregularly shaped circle with a soft, watercolor-like edge. Inside this circle is a faint, light green palm frond. Overlaid on the palm frond is the text "Palm SUNDAY" in a dark green, handwritten-style font. Below the text is a small, thin black rectangular box containing the text "JOHN 12:13" in a simple, sans-serif font.

Palm  
SUNDAY

JOHN 12:13



They took palm branches and went out  
to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord!"

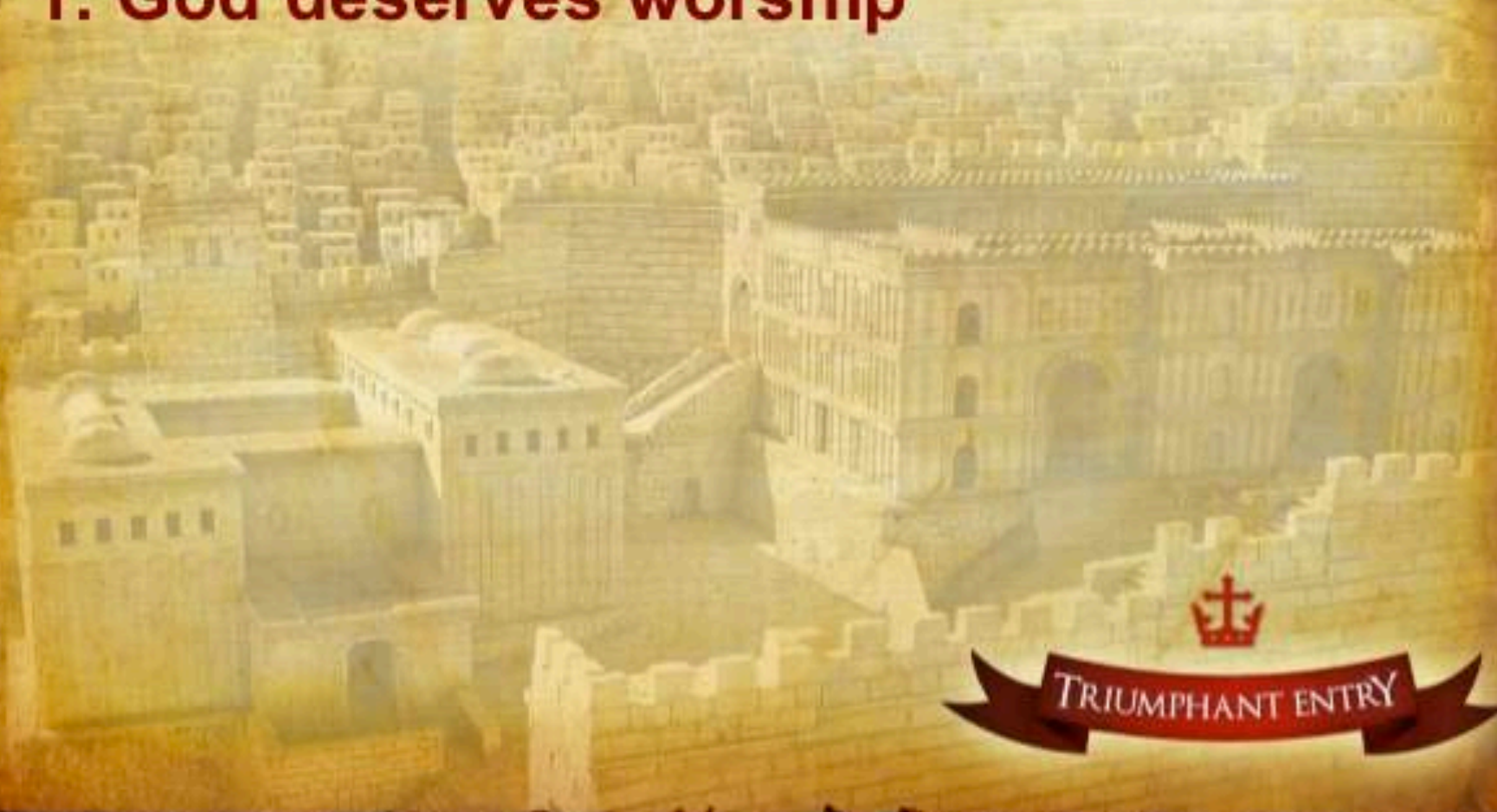
"Blessed is the king of Israel!"

JOHN 12:13

**III. THE FOUR**  
**ESSENTIALS OF**  
**WORSHIP:**

# The 4 essentials to worship

## 1. God deserves worship



The whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!”

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones would immediately cry out.”

**Luke 19:38-40**

# The 4 essentials to worship

**1. God deserves worship**

**2. We were created to worship**



**Because I provide water in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.**

**Isaiah 43:20-21**

**For in Jesus all things were created:  
things in heaven and on earth, visible  
and invisible, whether thrones or  
powers or rulers or authorities; all  
things have been created through him  
and for him.**

**Colossians 1:15-16**

# The 4 essentials to worship

1. God deserves worship
2. We were created to worship
3. We need to worship Jesus as our Lord and Savior



**Jesus: “The kingdom of God has  
come near. Repent and believe the  
good news!”**

**Mark 1:15**

**Paul: “I have declared to both Jews  
and Greeks that they must turn to  
God in repentance and have faith in  
our Lord Jesus”.**

**Acts 20:21**

**For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death.**

**2 Corinthians 7:10**

# The 4 essentials to worship

1. God deserves worship
2. We were created to worship
3. We need to worship Jesus as our Lord and Savior
4. We worship God with our whole lives



Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Romans 12:1-2**

# CONCLUSION

# CONCLUSION

## **PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8**

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ...though he was in the form of God, he did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

AND I HEARD GOD ASK,

**WHO WILL I SEND?**

AND I SAID,

**HERE I AM!**

**SEND ME!**

ISAIAH 6:8

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