

# North Lake Macquarie Uniting Congregation

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Greetings my dear friends,

Welcome to my second minister's letter to you, this is an important way for me to keep in touch with you each week. I hope you are keeping well. There are other ways in which we are all keeping in touch, by phone, text, email, and by our church website. The minister's letter is published on our church website; you can invite friends or family to read it there. I will use our church Facebook page also this coming week, on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Day.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, and it will be a very strange Palm Sunday for us. From this we move into Holy Week under strange circumstances and then Easter Day. Palm Sunday is still coming this Sunday. Holy Week will then follow and there will be an Easter Day on 12<sup>th</sup> April.

'Hosanna Loud Hosanna...' we celebrate His coming, His triumphant entry, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." We pray... *"Loving God, we celebrate your Son's coming, we join the happy throng, we laugh with our palm branch waving, we raise our voices in joyful song and we raise our hands to heaven.* You have heard our prayers, you have responded beyond anything we could have imagined. We sing with joy and laughter: 'Trotting Trotting Trotting.' What a glorious sight!

We read: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 and Matthew 21:1-11 He comes he comes... it is an amazing sight. Children are coming with palm branches, some are throwing down a royal welcome, their own coats on the ground. This is the 'Jesus of Nazareth' everyone is talking about. They've all heard of him and now they see him. He speaks of the kingdom of heaven being at hand and the day of salvation fast approaching. He speaks and everyone listens, but there are some who hate his message. They will soon be silenced. *"Praise you Jesus... hosanna to the Son of David"*

We pray: *"For a world in need we pray... we are not a people of despair, we are a people of hope for the world. We pray for our country, for our leaders, for people in lockdown. None of us is locked away from you, you are close. We pray for those who are ill, for those we cannot visit – you will be with them in our name and we thank you. We pray for those in grief at this time, none are dead to you. We struggle to comfort from this distance but "your compassions they fail not" and you will be close to the grieving. We pray for your Son's Church – as we are separated by distance we are united in love and bound together by your Spirit. We will keep the faith. In you we place all our hope. To you we lift our eyes, for you are our helper our healer and our life. AMEN."*

We sing, "Prepare the royal highway..." How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land, and ours is a strange land today. Yes we have our questions... yet, we will sing out our faith, our trust and our confidence. And we prepare the royal highway...

Love to you all,

*Kenneth.*