



As Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, crowds of people came out to celebrate him—here was the King, arriving to save them as the Bible had promised.

They had seen the love that Jesus showed people, and the power he had as he spoke and did miracles... and now here he was! They rushed to wave palm branches, shout “Hosanna!” and throw their own coats on the ground to make a kind of first-century red carpet for him.

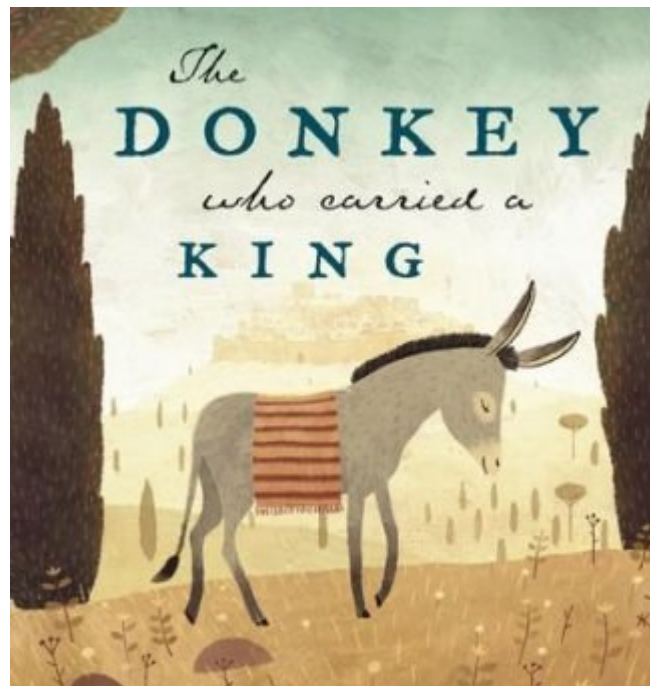
As you imagine the scene, make your very own “Palm Sundae” , thinking about the story and celebrating King Jesus as you eat it. You might need to improvise with what you have at home!

Spoon in some green jelly or sweets as you think of the palm leaves, waved as a sign that Jesus was the King and worthy of a King’s welcome.

Now add some crumbled biscuits to remember the dirty, dusty road that Jesus rode on, on his donkey.

Squirt on some cream (or ice cream/yogurt) to cover the biscuit, just like the people’s cloaks covered the dusty road so that Jesus would not have to step on it.

Finish off your sundae by writing “HOSANNA!” on a slip of paper, and carefully attaching it to a cocktail stick. Stick it into your sundae like a banner!



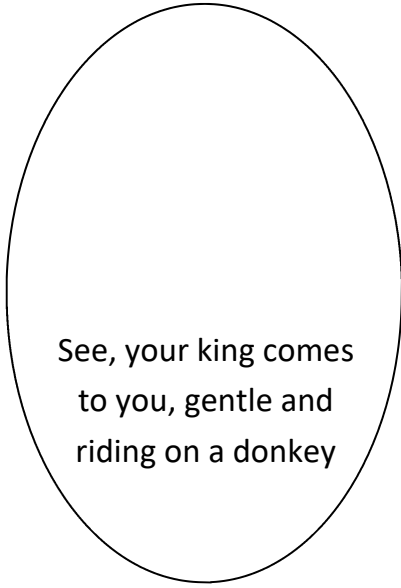
Jesus and his disciples are walking towards Jerusalem when Jesus stops them. He sends 2 disciples to get him 2 donkeys. But he doesn't say anything about paying for them. They are to go to the village and get a donkey and her colt. If anyone says anything, they are just supposed to say that "the Lord needs them" and it will all be fine.

It wasn't just a happy coincidence that the donkeys were where Jesus said they'd be. This was exactly what the Bible had promised for hundreds of years. The real king wasn't going to be rich or impressive, but ride into the city on a donkey... a donkey he had to borrow. Jesus came to serve and to love, giving his life for all of us.

The Bible says, *"This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet would come true. It says, "Say to the city of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you. He is gentle and riding on a donkey. He is riding on a donkey's colt.'"* —(Zechariah 9:9, quoted in Matthew 21)

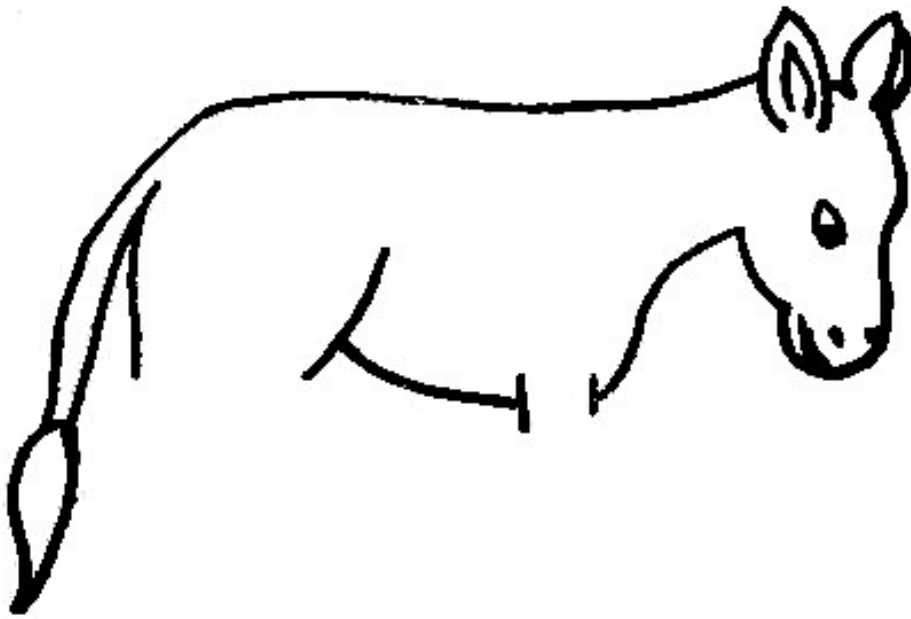
Cut out a donkey body shape, and use pens and crayons to colour and decorate it, then add a mane and tail made of wool or string.
Cut out a saddle and stick it onto the donkey's back, folding it in half, then make a little green palm leaf and glue it on.
Add two clothes pegs for legs, so that the donkey can stand up.

Donkey craft shapes



See, your king comes
to you, gentle and
riding on a donkey

Saddle: cut out and fold in half
over the donkey's back.



Donkey: cut out and
colour, then add
clothes pegs for legs!



Have you seen pictures and film footage of the crowds around Buckingham Palace whenever there is a royal event when people might get to glimpse the queen?

When Jesus came into Jerusalem, people lined the streets to see him and welcome him as their King. He didn't come in a fancy carriage, like our queen might, but on a small, unimpressive donkey. People had seen what Jesus was like over the three years of his ministry, and they crowded in to be close to him and worship him.

What are the words that you would use to praise Jesus? Write them down on strips of paper.

Now cut out a palm leaf shape and make slits in it. Weave your praise word strips in and out of the slits, making sure that all the loose ends are on one side of the leaf. Stick the ends down with tape.

You could attach your leaf to a "stem" made of a straw/ lolly stick/ rolled up paper— then you can wave it while you sing worship songs to Jesus as a family. Why not try singing along to "Worship for Everyone" children's songs on YouTube?

Jesus is greater and more loving than we can possibly imagine, and after Palm Sunday he went on to die for each of us, so we can always be friends with God.



All try on the biggest coat in the house —how does it feel? Heavy? Warm? Protective? Cosy?

The people who came to welcome Jesus on Palm Sunday had their cloaks on for a reason, just like we put on our coats for a reason when we go out. They wanted to keep warm, perhaps, or keep the rain off... or maybe it was hot and they needed the cloaks to shade their skin from the sun. Some of them had a cloak to show that they were the sort of person who could afford a well-made, good-quality piece of clothing.

But many of them decided to take off their cloaks that day. As they saw Jesus coming towards them on a donkey, they realised that there was something much more important than their own comfort or appearance. They wanted to worship Jesus, the King, and so they laid their cloaks down in the dirty road for him. They didn't want his donkey's feet to touch the dusty ground, they wanted to lay out the red carpet for him, so they gave what they had—their cloaks.

As we come to worship Jesus today, what can we lay down for him?

Spend a moment asking Jesus, and then write or draw those things on a piece of paper. Maybe it is your *time*, choosing to pray and praise him each day, or to help others in the community who need support... Maybe it is your *money or possessions*, choosing to be generous like he is, and not holding onto what you have for yourself... Maybe it is your whole heart.