

## Dean's Letter, 14 April 2019

Dear Cathedral family, brothers and sisters in Christ

Palm Sunday, with its palm branches and “All glory, laud and honour” is part of what we as Anglicans (and other historic churches – Catholic, Orthodox, and others) do on this day. As we do so, we re-enact – we enter into – the great drama and events of Holy Week. It is often said that the best way to learn something is to do it. Talk goes over our heads, watching is a bit better, but participating is the best of all. We remember, at a deep level, possibly for the rest of our life. So this week, particularly on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and at the Easter Vigil, we participate in the great act of God in our redemption: the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope that many of us will be part of the services this week, particularly on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil (with Communion). I remember my first Easter Vigil as a child – the excitement, the darkness, the fire, the lighting of the Easter Candle - powerful symbols that have stayed with me.

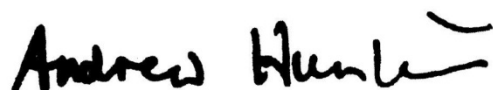
Our Cathedral Palm Sunday procession is relatively tame, by some standards – and I am not blaming anyone for this, as the current “route”, from Church Square into the Cathedral, is my choice! I remember in Bonteheuwel, a big township on the Cape Flats, our Palm Sunday procession would go round a couple of blocks, past homes of parishioners, but also, sadly, past shebeens, past houses of shame and suffering, houses of ill repute, homes of gangsters, places of fear. And we reflected on our public witness as a Christian community, in the face of all this: our march proclaimed the grace and love of God through our Lord Jesus Christ; we proclaimed and witnessed to the victory of the cross over evil and sin and death; we invited people to turn from sin and believe in the good news, and to follow Jesus as their Lord, and ours. We were also saying, please stop destroying our community with your drugs and your violence.

What is our public witness, as the Cathedral, in the context of the community around us? What is our message of hope and good news? Our prophetic word to this city? To those who live and work here? Those who govern us?

We are saying to the many in our town who are Christians: let us stand together in our witness to the Lordship of Christ. Let us join hands. Let us encourage one another, build one another up, help wherever we can, share the burdens of this community, share resources, care for the distressed, those in need, be salt and light, make a difference, be instruments of reconciliation and healing and forgiveness, be prepared to ask the hard and difficult questions, weep when others are weeping, laugh and rejoice when others rejoice. The faithful work of many, many Cathedral members, and members of other churches, is phenomenal, and without this, our town would flounder and fall. Everywhere I go, I find my brothers and sisters in Christ, members of the Cathedral, and others, serving and making a difference.

To discern a prophetic word is harder. It verges on the arrogant – unless God has laid it on my heart. We are living in a time of uncertainty and fear. If things fall apart, our faith will be tested to the utmost. But perhaps in this we shall discover a deeper measure of God's grace and strength. It is in these uncertain times that we go into Palm Sunday and Holy Week, into the darkness and into the light.

My love to you all

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Hunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.