

## **Palm Sunday, with Friday in mind**

written by Anita Dobson

A cross is placed centre front stage. Two speakers are placed with mics in the side aisles, one on each side. They speak sitting down, so that they are not easily identified. One speaker shouts the words that were heard as Jesus arrived triumphantly in Jerusalem. The other is sly and mocking, sowing sarcasm, doubt and fear.

Jesus enters slowly through the doors. He stares straight ahead, eyes fixed on the cross. He walks at an infinitely slow pace as if in a dream, and his walk is timed to reach the last steps to the cross at the right moment. His face is impassive at the start, but perhaps some flicker of emotion gathers as he nears the cross, and his final run to the cross and single line of speech are full of anguish.

The words of the two speakers echo Jesus own words at the start and on the final day of his earthly ministry. Echoes too of the serpent's clever taunts in the garden of Eden, the taunts of the soldiers and of course the cries of the Jerusalem crowd as noted in the different Gospels both on Palm Sunday and at other times when they are in a good mood and need Jesus' help.

V1: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

V2: Blessed indeed. Did God really say he is sending you to die?

V1: Jesus, save us!

V2: Save yourself, more like.

V1: Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!

V2: But where's your peace now?

V1: Hosanna to the Son of David!

V2: They may worship you today, but what about on Thursday, or Friday?

V1: The spirit of the Lord is upon you, for he has anointed you to preach good news to the poor!

V2: Isn't this Mary and Joseph's son, from Nazareth? Where's your courage now, small town carpenter?

V1: Our God has sent you, the Messiah!

V2: Your God, your God! Isn't he about to forsake you?

V1: Jesus, rescue us from the oppression of the Romans!

V2: I know, I know. Your kingdom is not of this world. You just keep telling yourself that.

V1: Save us from our sins!

V2: But will you forgive them when they turn against you? For they know exactly what they're doing.

V1: Hosanna!

V2: Crucify!

V1: Hosanna!

V1 & 2: **Crucify!**