

# GREEN BRANCHES

(A series of poems for Easter)

By  
Brenda Jackson

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The Religious Drama Society of Great Britain  
e-mail: [sales@radiusdrama.org.uk](mailto:sales@radiusdrama.org.uk) web: [www.radiusdrama.org.uk](http://www.radiusdrama.org.uk)



## GREEN BRANCHES: SOME WOMEN AT EASTER

### 1. THE EVE OF PALM SUNDAY: Evening Meal at Bethany.

John 12: 1 – 3

### 2. PALM SUNDAY: Hosanna

Matthew 21: 5 – 9    Mark 11: 7 – 10    Luke 19: 37 – 40    John: 12: 12 – 15

### 3. MAUNDY THURSDAY: The Famous Moment of Abigail Levy.

Matthew 26: 69 – 70    Mark 14: 66 – 68    Luke: 22: 55 – 57    John 18: 16,17  
(Abigail (a Hebrew name) was once used in English to denote a woman servant.)

### 4. GOOD FRIDAY: Theia. (Theia is modern Greek for Aunt)

John 19: 25

(Theia is modern Greek for Aunt)

### 5. SATURDAY, EASTER EVE: Lady Joanna has been Shopping

Luke 8: 3 and Luke 24: 10

(Chuzai is said to be a Nabatean name, i.e. for a man of Petra)

### 6. EASTER DAY (MORNING): At the Gennath Gate

John 20: 1 – 18

(The Gennath [Garden] Gate is thought to have been the nearest in the walls of Jerusalem to Joseph of Arimathea's garden tomb.)

### 7. EASTER DAY (EVENING): Bus to Emmaus

Luke 24: 13 – 32

## FAIRFORD

(Fairford Church is in Gloucestershire, near Cirencester. It is famous for its old stained glass.)

## 1. EVENING MEAL AT BETHANY

He wept, and then he summoned all his strength,  
Called "Lazarus, come forth!", and was obeyed,  
Knowing in that moment what he had done,  
What drawn upon himself,  
The bridge to freedom broken at his back for ever.  
And now he sits and eats, and smiles, and answers,  
And seems to me almost transparent, like a pure candle lighted,  
And hears the hum of talk, laughter, argument,  
As from another world.

He has already left us.

John's young-eagle gaze sees what I see, if no-one else,  
And his heart sinks,  
As mine does,  
As the devouring power that waits, that breathes hate round about  
the house tonight,  
At last defied in its own deepest hold,  
Roused terribly for war.

The crucial fight  
Must now be very near.

Forget I used that word.

Martha, give me the scent of life and joy,  
To fill the house, this evening of bitter spring,  
While we still call it Now,  
Before the feast is over, and the morning comes.