

Sunday 13 April – Palm Sunday

Prayers written by Wendy Borgartz

Let us pray for the church and for the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Lord Jesus, you rode humbly into Jerusalem on a donkey, not as a conquering king but as a servant to all. You came knowing that the cheers of the crowd would soon turn to jeers and calls for your death. Through your death for us all you destroyed death itself and opened to us the kingdom of heaven. Lord Jesus, as we seek to welcome you into our lives with cries of 'Hosanna', and as we walk the way of the cross through this Holy Week, keep us ever mindful of your love and your peace.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus, you are the Prince of peace. We pray for your peace in our world where there is so much trouble and war. We pray for all those suffering in all nations from the effects of war, those who have lost homes, jobs, loved ones, all refugees, all who are struggling to make sense of what is senseless. We think especially this morning of the people of Gaza, of Ukraine, of South Sudan and all places where there is fighting and injustice. We pray for your wisdom and guiding hand for those tasked with working towards peace, that they may bring about a just and equitable peace to conflicts, and we pray also for the aid agencies working to relieve suffering. . We pray also for the people of Myanmar following the recent earthquake and for all those working to provide aid and recovery to them.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Lord, our world has more need of your unfailing love and goodness now than ever. We pray that in this Holy Week your example of self-sacrifice and love may break through the greed and intolerance of others. May all people find ways to serve others as you serve us, as it is in helping and serving others, showing love instead of hatred, that we may be able to overcome the 'me first' point of view that seems to be so rampant at present in our world

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Father God, we give thanks for the love of families and friends, and we ask your blessing on their lives. We pray for those who are homeless, those who

are despairing, all those who will need to use the services of a foodbank in the coming week to be able to feed their families. We pray for all those who are lonely, who have nobody to care for them and ask that you send your Holy Spirit so that they feel your love and presence to help them through their times of difficulty.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Father, we ask your blessing on those who are deeply hurt by the actions of others. We pray for all who harbour hatred and resentment and ask that they might find the power to forgive. We pray for all who are unwell at this time, in mind, body or spirit. Surround them with your healing hands and let them know the comfort of your love. We bring before you especially this morning Alfred Johnson and Jan Barker and, in a moment of silence, those known to us individually or to you alone.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

As we remember the death and passion of our Lord, we rejoice in his victory. We pray for loved ones who have departed from us. We remember all who have been bereaved recently and all who have lost loved ones through accidents or acts of violence. May they know of your love and the joy of your kingdom. We think especially this morning of the family and friends of Derek Sellwood, Helen Rand and Stephen Castell. From our memorial book we remember and give thanks for the lives of Raymond Murrells, Sybil Graham and Rodney Borgartz. Grant us, with them, a share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

Lord God, we thank you for the coming of Christ into the world, sharing in our troubles. We rejoice in your saving power and in the promise of life eternal. We pray for all who seek to walk the way of the cross this week, for our ministry team, for our Diocese and for all Christian people keeping this Holy Week. We ask your blessing upon all Christians who are facing persecution and rejection at this time.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.