

AS ONE AT 10

Prayers for Palm Sunday

Four words to accompany us on our journey through Holy Week.

Grace, Mercy, Promise and Hope

Each word could be unpacked for its depth of meaning but for our prayers Grace is simply gift, mercy a softening and a holding back, promise is God's word and a hope what we cling to and offers others especially those who do not know Jesus. Let us pray. Loving, compassionate and generous heavenly Father.

Grace

We hold out our hands to receive the gift of grace that is your son Jesus. A gift too huge for us to comprehend. A gift we don't deserve. And as we travel through this week towards Good Friday and ponder His sacrificial death and glorious resurrection, help us to understand more and more what this means and "that your grace is sufficient for us". Help us also to receive graciously from one another. To receive what others, want to give to us at this time. To acknowledge the gift we are to one another and our need of one another. Lord give us the strength to give generously and graciously. To speak graciously and act graciously.

Mercy

Lord thank you for your mercy. May it fall on us like spring rain. May it soften our hearts, may it water the seeds of your Word that are planted within us. And now as you hear the sound of the rain let us pray for those around us in need of God's mercy, that this softening will see hearts returning to God. Please pray as led for someone you know, for neighbours, friends and family. (Rain stick sounds) And we pray for our nation that God will indeed be merciful towards us.

Promise

Thank you, Lord, for the promises in your word. Think of a verse that is sustaining you at this time. Thank God for his word. Maybe say it out aloud and share with others if you haven't already done so. Isaiah 43:1b-3a. Thank you Jesus that you are The Word! (As a sign of God's promise you may like to create a rainbow and put it in your window).

Hope

Father thank you for the hope you have put in each of us. As we hold onto the promises you have given us and cling to Your goodness let us be agents of hope to all those we know and all those you have put on our hearts. Jesus Hope of the Nations - this is what we have, to share with the rest of the world.

(Light a candle of as a sign of this hope)

We have to be candles burning between hope and despair. A disquieting place the world must find us. Therefore, may the grace and mercy of God carry us through this week as we hold onto his promises and offer hope to those around us. Amen