

Prayer Focus 25th March 2018

**The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. "Who is this?" they asked.
Matthew 21:10**

Jesus is coming!

From the mountainside, from the seaside, from the homes of the rich and the company of the poor,
from the bedside of those who are sick, Jesus is coming!

Along dusty roads, with a ragged band of travellers, Jesus comes to Jerusalem,
Jesus comes to worship. Will we greet him with Hosannas?

In our lives this week, we turned away from your triumphal entry.
The words in our heads and on our lips have been, "Can't" "Won't" "Never" "Impossible".
Believing our problems are too deep for you, we have underestimated your power
We repent of this hardheartedness. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Too often we pray only for ourselves and our own needs.
In spite of ourselves, you walk a road straight to the heart of us.

You heal us, help us, hold us.

We take your comfort and run away, never returning to say "Thank you".
Help us to be thankful for your presence in our lives. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You place people in our road who are in desperate need of your good news,
and we have walked by on the other side. Or we've said, "We'll help them tomorrow,
When we have more time or more money or more something."
Help us to be your hands and feet in this world. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of grace, we long to be dear disciples, washing each other's feet.

We long to be faithful companions, awake in the darkest hour.

We long to follow in your footsteps, even if they lead to crosses on a barren hillside.

These are the desires of our hearts. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Family Prayer News: please pray for Shelia Taylor & her family, also for Margaret Dalton's son Mark.
Pray for Shirley Spreadborough who is unwell. Pray for Anthony Evans & the rest of the family as he
prepares to change schools. Pray for those baptised that they will be blessed.

Street of the Week: Wills Road

Early last year a severe food crisis struck East Africa. A devastating drought compounded by conflicts in the region left 23 million people in need of food, water and medical treatment. Despite the extensive humanitarian support from many agencies, the situation remains desperate in 2018. The region faces its fifth consecutive year of below average rainfall and the scale of the need is alarming.

Pray for the rain to come and for the drought to be broken. The changing climate is fuelling the crisis – please pray that world leaders will commit to ways of reducing the impact on those living in poverty.

Pray for the resources needed to meet the immediate needs of millions of people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somaliland and South Sudan. Lift up each person and family suffering in these countries, and pray that they will receive the help they desperately need.

For I tell you that you will not see Me again until you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'" Matthew 23:39