

PALM SUNDAY



St Aidan's Uniting Church
24th March 2024
Lent 6

Thanksgiving

Listen! From the distance we hear the crowd reciting psalms, as is the tradition of the pilgrims who approach Jerusalem. We hear their song gathering and growing in strength as they draw closer. We too find ourselves in that crowd, so let us join in the psalm of praise.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God,
as the Pilgrims once gathered
from across the world
to celebrate the Passover
in the city of Jerusalem,
so too, do we gather,
to remind ourselves
of what it means to be your people,
and celebrate the freedom
you give to all your children.

Sometimes we hear your invitation to freedom
and make assumptions of what that looks like
transferring our values onto you
or assuming that our understanding is correct.

When we join the crowds
expecting a military messiah,
loving God, forgive us.

Sometimes we get caught up
in the emotion of the crowd
and allow ourselves to be swept along
in popular causes,
rather than listening
to what you are really saying.

When we join the crowds
because it is the easy thing to do,
loving God, forgive us.

Sometimes we fail to notice
the others in the crowd,
who are valued by you
and need our care.

When we join the crowds
making your entry about us,
loving God, forgive us.

Gather us all in
and help us become disciples
willing to follow you
through all the challenges of life.

Help us to hear and respond
to your invitation
to a fullness of life;
help us to share that invitation
with all your beloved children.

Amen.

Prayer of Intercession

As the Passover approaches,
we remember the stories of rescue from slavery,
and pray for the people of the world
who lack freedom in their lives.

We pray for those who are caught up
in modern-day slavery;
workers in sweatshops who make our clothes,
people who are trafficked,
people in Australia and overseas.

We pray for people
whose decisions are taken from them,
because of disability,
or assumptions about their capacity.

We pray for those who are oppressed
because of their differences,

or differences that frighten or challenge people.

We pray for those
who work for freedom
of those who lack it,
especially those who risk their lives
in its pursuit.

Amen.

Benediction

Hosanna!

Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

Pilgrims do not come to stay,
they come so they can be refreshed
and can grow.

As we go out into this Easter week,
where are you in the crowd?