

Prayer for Palm Sunday written by Jane Peers

Lord Jesus Christ,

You declared your Kingship by entering Jerusalem on a humble donkey. With the crowds we shout, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!” We praise you and acknowledge you as our Lord and God. Humble Lord, while people clamoured for a warrior-king, the colt revealed your servanthood. As you face the way of tears, the tearing of the temple veil, take us from the crowds to place our faith in you, Jesus Christ, our victim and our saviour. Amen

Prayers of thanksgiving and intercession from Christian Aid in a time of virus

Christian Aid are preparing for Covid 19 in hit the Cox's Bazar district, where over 850,000 Rohingya refugees live in cramped camps making them very vulnerable to coronavirus. The virus is already present in the camps.

Christian Aid are already taking action, drawing on experience in combating the Ebola crisis, to fight against Coronavirus alongside sisters and brothers living in poverty. They are on the ground helping to limit the impact of the virus by offering hygiene and hand washing sessions, ensuring that health facilities in camps are able to receive suspected cases, and providing training to health personnel and key frontline aid workers.

As we pray, we think of our own situation in Scotland and communities across the world:

For the health workers tending the seriously ill
for the scientists working on a vaccination
for the researchers analysing data and identifying trends
for the media outlets working to communicate reality
for the supermarket workers, hygiene and sanitation providers
for the good news stories of recoveries and effective planning
for the singing from balconies by locked-down communities
for the recognition that isolation doesn't need to mean loneliness
for the notes through letterboxes offering help and support
for the internet and telephones and technology that connects
for the awakened appreciation of what is truly important

Thanks be to God.

For those who are unwell and concerned for loved ones
for those who were already very anxious
for those immune suppressed or compromised
for those vulnerable because of underlying conditions
for those in the 'most at risk to coronavirus' categories
for those watching their entire income stream dry up
for those who have no choice but to go out to work
for those who are afraid to be at home
for those who are more lonely than they've ever been
for those who are bereaved and grieving.

God be their healer, comfort and protection,
be their strength, shield and provision
be their security, safety and close companion

And raise up your Church
to be your well-washed hands and faithful feet
to be present to the pain
to respond with love in action
if even from a safe distance.

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer. Amen