

 Palm Sunday  April 5, 2020

~United in Love and Prayers for The Whole Church and All The World~

Almighty God, in our homes and in our hearts, you've gathered your world together today in celebration and remembrance of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Your people have come together as the Body of Christ, not because we were made to participate, but because we needed and wanted to share a time to worship our Lord and Savior.

Lord Jesus, you always traveled on foot, walking to every place; healing, teaching, and sharing your message of forgiveness and salvation to people who could not save themselves from the consequences of their sins. This one time, you, the Prince of Peace and King of All Kings, entered the Holy City riding on a young and gentle donkey. You were greeted with a royal welcome by excited people, joyful celebration, waving palms, and shouts of "Hosanna! Hosanna!". In your mercy, you alone knew how the adoration would change to anger, rejection, and sacrifice. And still you went. You went to save them from what they deserved as punishment for their sins. You entered the last week of your life in this world to be the sacrificial lamb for us, and for our all sins. Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus. Hear our thankful praises for your plan, the only plan that could save all your people, Merciful and Gracious God.

"The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."" Matthew 21:6-11

Today we shouted our own hosannas in our homes, gathered around the technology you, God, provided in wisdom and inventions to mankind; holding worship guides in our hands, watching, listening, singing, praying, and worshipping as your whole church. We haven't witnessed many, if any, miracles in our broken

world, Father God, but surely we have witnessed one today! Thank you for showing us a miracle, God.

Our prayers have multiplied each day these past weeks. More and more of us have wanted to spend time with you. We've found and opened our Bibles to read and find peace in your true and holy word. We've made choices we didn't want to make to protect everyone from infection. You've refocused our adoring eyes from people on self made pedestals of popularity toward those you chose to be your selfless servants in their courageous dedication to comfort and heal their patients, protect us, and provide what we need. We've felt your Holy Spirit prompt us in our thoughts to reach out to lonely people in their sheltered waiting. Our usual selfish thinking has changed to thinking of others who need what we have more than we do. You've blocked distractive busy-ness and rekindled a spirit of togetherness in families.

We haven't witnessed many, if any, miracles in our broken world, Father God, but surely we have witnessed one today. Thank you for showing us miracles, God.

We awoke expecting the increasing numbers of suffering and tragedy in our country. In our self confident thinking, the uncontrollable coronavirus seemed far away from us 2 months ago, and we felt safe here in the nation you've blessed with prosperity and freedom. A month ago we realized that the infection in our own American cities had rapidly gotten out of our control. In our desperation and fear, our thoughts returned to dependence on you, Almighty God; bigger and sovereign over all people, all governments, all deceptions, and all circumstances. Our eyes are open, and our hearts are filled with hope. We have been reminded and recognize who you are and what you do for us.

We haven't witnessed many, if any, miracles in our broken world, but surely we have witnessed them today. Thank you for showing us miracles, God.

Lord Jesus, on the gentle donkey you returned to Jerusalem to save God's people from themselves and from the world. Beautiful Savior, you've returned to us in America and around the world to help battle a vicious, viral infection, and in so doing, to save us from all the world's deceptions that we came to tolerate and then embrace.

Our world has no power like your power. We thank you for this revival of faith, and we humbly ask that in the coming victory over the virus, we would remember

where we were and what you did to save us on the cross and in our nation. Holy Spirit, it might take a miracle to help us keep you in our hearts, in our words, and in all that we do until we meet you in eternal life. We've seen your miracles today, and we believe you can help us find what we've been missing.

Father God, we cry out for your protection and provision of all we need these next weeks. We ask for comfort and recovery, for effective treatment and vaccines. We ask that humble dependence on your guidance that would help our government officials listen, submit to your plan, and work in unity to restore lost jobs and help recover economic stability.

Be with us, guides us, and in your omnipotent power, get our attention and obedience when the world's temptations lure us back to the way were. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, we pray and ask for more of your miraculous interventions in our lives. Amen.