

Palm Sunday Prayer March 29, 2015

Living Lord, forever faithful we worship you.
With your word the cosmos was spoken into being.
With your breath we were filled with your life-giving spirit.
With your voice we are called to follow in your ways that lead to abundant life.

Living Lord, forever faithful we raise our voices in your honour.
With our words we celebrate your word.
You have always been true to your word.
You said right in the beginning that you were our God and that we were your people – and you stand by what you have said.

You married your creation for richer or poorer and in sickness or in health.
Though we have been unfaithful, though we have repeatedly walked out on you – you have never filed for divorce.

Even though we often refuse to answer when you call – you never give us silent treatment in return. Because you are aware that we cannot sustain ourselves.

Because you know we are totally dependent on you ... that we live and move and have our being in you – and that if you were to withdraw from us we would return to nothing ... because you know all this, you take pity on us and for that reason your steadfast love endures forever. And for that reason we sing your praises.

Lord today we pray for more than your steadfast love to enfold us with forgiveness; but for your steadfast love to empower us to change. It is terrible to pray for forgiveness while at the same time sensing that we are just going to be in the same position tomorrow – it feels so defeatist to even pray. Of course we want the freedom that comes with knowing that we are forgiven but we need more than that. We need the power to be truly delivered from our sin. And we are not just talking about things we say and do ... we are talking about the deeper direction of our life that is difficult to put into words. The direction of our life, when left to its own devices, has its own autopilot called self-interest and self-deceit. We need your power to take the controls of our lives and re-direct them so that we journey in a manner that glorifies your name. We desire your glory to become our heart-felt desire, our soul-driven passion. Replace our desire to have you serve us with the greater desire for us to serve you. And this really is near the root of things Lord ... the difficult truth for us to face and especially to verbalise is for us to admit that so, so much of our being is wrapped up in selfishness. And like a computer virus it attaches itself to every file of our lives contaminating every action we perform and quite often without us being aware of it. That is what we need you to deal with. Pull our sin out at the roots – don't leave a stump in the ground that can simply grow again.

Living God, we ask this trusting in your power to set us free from everything that prevents us from following Jesus. Give to us the same mind that is in Christ Jesus that we too may do justice, love mercy and walk humbly in your presence.

Lord, glorify your name. Amen.