

## Journey to the Cross – WCC Lent Prayer 2024

### Week 5

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> March: End of our giving week

Today is the end of a week of giving towards the work of the church. We believe in seeing God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. We believe that we are stewards of all God has given us and that we sow now for future generations.

*Think of Lent as a **kick starter** for a whole year (and beyond) of growing more like Jesus. Ask yourself: "How do I want Lent 2024 to affect not only these 40 days, but also the next 40 years(and beyond)?"*

#### **During Lent we have an opportunity fast, pray & give.**

- *Give thanks to God that we have a future in heaven with Him. Who would you like to see in heaven with you – lift them to God this week.*
- *When or what are you going to fast from this week?*
- *Pray for Wantage Community Church, for our Advance Sphere and for the HUB project.*

### Week 6

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> March: Palm Sunday & Holy Week

#### **Mark 11: Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King**

When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“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!”

#### **During Lent we have an opportunity fast, pray & give.**

- *Give thanks for Jesus' death and resurrection on the cross – that death is defeated and Jesus is victorious.*
- *When or what are you going to fast from this week?*
- *Pray for our Nation & the nations. For God's kingdom to be advancing. For us to be people who love mercy, act justly and walk humbly with our God. (Micah6v8)*

### Lent Series: intro

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February

Lent helps us to journey to the cross with Jesus. It is about preparing our hearts to be open once again to Jesus, the importance of his coming into the world and the effect that his presence should have in and on our lives. It reminds us of the significance of Jesus death and resurrection for our lives both now and for eternity. His journey to the Cross is still relevant for us today.

We remind ourselves of this in practical ways: historically many Christians have chosen to give something up – in order to say God you are more important than chocolate, alcohol, social media or my bad habits – that gives us time to reflect and to pray. Or we chose to take something up, a habit of prayer or of generosity creating new rhythms of grace to take us forward in our Christian walk with God.

This year we will be taking time as a church to Fast, to Pray and to Give during Lent. There will be a weekly prayer meeting on Sunday evenings – see our email or WhatsApp for details.

What might you consider fasting from? *Chocolate, a television programme, food for a morning, a meal, a day per week?* What adventures in prayer has God got for you? *Spend the time you would have used eating, watching tv, scrolling through social media to pray, or use some of the 24-7 “pray for an hour” resources (e.g: <https://www.24-7prayer.com/resource/prayer-for-anxiety-about-money/>) or set an alarm on your phone to pray 3 x a day (<https://www.habitsofthehousehold.com/>)* What might God be laying on your heart to give? *Perhaps the money you would have spent on a take away coffee, or the loose change in your wallet, or give some of your time to prayer.*

## Week 1 -Sun 18<sup>th</sup> February: The dark before the dawn

At the start of the journey to the cross it can be daunting to think about the challenges we face – as individuals and as a church. Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before him (Hebrews 12) whatever difficulties you might face, know that God is walking with you. **God is our refuge and strength an ever present help in times of trouble. Psalm 46v1.**

*I am not in control, I am not in a hurry. I walk in faith and hope. I greet everyone with peace. I bring back only what God gives me. Murray Bodo, Pilgrims Credo*

### **During Lent we have an opportunity fast, pray & give.**

- Give thanks that we can trust God for everything we need.
- When or what are you going to fast from this week?
- Pray for Nicky and Dave our missionaries working in bible translation and with those in war torn areas of west Africa.

## Week 2 – Sun 25<sup>th</sup> February: God's word

As we continue our journey to the cross it's vital that we remain rooted in the word of God. It's his love letter to us, it is full of his promises for us – it leads and guides us in our lives and it helps us to make changes in our lives for his glory and his kingdom. Whether that is giving up a bad habit or taking up a good one – like reading our bibles every day. A small positive change can have a big impact that lasts beyond the 40 days of lent. What is a favourite bible verse that is foundational to your walk with God?

### **During Lent we have an opportunity fast, pray & give.**

- Give thanks to God for His faithfulness. Look back in your journal (if you don't have one – why not start?) look at all the answered prayers and thank Him for them.
- When or what are you going to fast from this week?
- Pray for Ben & Michelle and their family, and all the believers they are working with at the moment.

## Week 3 Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> March: Understanding our past

The Bible is full of stories showing God's love and compassion for his people and also their unfaithfulness. An honest consideration of our lives from God's perspective reveals our failures to live up to his standards (our heart attitudes are imperfect quite apart from our behaviour!) Yet we can see times when he touched us or blessed us whether or not we knew him. How should we then respond to such a great God?

*If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just and will forgive us **our sins** and purify us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1v9*

### **During Lent we have an opportunity fast, pray & give.**

- Give thanks to God that God loves us utterly and completely. Rest in his arms this week, let Holy Spirit hug you, spend some time with God in silence listening to his voice.
- When or what are you going to fast from this week?
- Pray for Andrew Hart & PAK-7 – so much to be thankful for and so much prayer needed.

## Week 4 Sun 10<sup>th</sup> March: start of our giving week

Following God's will for our lives is the best investment we can make for our own future and that of new generations. A healthy church is good for us, our children, our neighbourhood. Imagine a place where God's kind and loving will is truly done and we reflect his character to everyone...

What is God asking of you – giving of your time? Your money? Yourself?

### **During Lent we have an opportunity fast, pray & give.**

- Give thanks to God for all his wonderful provision. Ask God for more – more for your family, more for WCC, more for the Hub– he is a generous God!
- When or what are you going to fast from this week?
- Pray for our local outreach and social initiatives: Toddlers, Dads Out, Food Bank, and Street Pastors – we want to see people's physical AND spiritual needs met. For volunteers, for salvation, for Freedom!!