

Congregational Prayer – For Palm Sunday

In our lives this week,
we turned away from your triumphal entry.
The words in our heads and on our lips have been,
“Can’t,” “Won’t,” “Never,” “Impossible.”
Believing our problems are too deep for you,
we have underestimated your power
and stewed in our own misery.
We repent of this hardheartedness.
God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Too often we pray only for ourselves and our own needs.
In spite of ourselves,
you walk a road straight to the heart of us.
You heal us, help us, hold us.
We gobble your comfort greedily and run away,
never returning to say “Thank you”.
Help us to be thankful for your presence in our lives.
God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

You place people in our road
who are in desperate need of your good news,
and we have walked by on the other side.
Or we’ve said, “We’ll help them tomorrow,
when we have more time, or more money, or more something.”
Help us to be your hands and feet, your voice in this world.
God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of grace, we long to be dear disciples,
washing each other’s feet.
We long to be faithful companions, awake in the darkest hour.
We long to follow in your footsteps,
even if they lead to crosses on a barren hillside.
These are the desires of our hearts.
God, in your mercy, you hear our prayer.

Carol Penner (Canada), 2012. leadinginworship.com
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