

PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the privilege it is to come before you in prayer. Today, we pause and remember Palm Sunday, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey, with a great crowd shouting, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Luke 19:38). Father, thank you that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of David, the long-awaited Ruler of Israel and the fulfillment of your promises to us. We give you thanks, that despite Jesus knowing on Palm Sunday that he would soon be rejected and crucified, he had mercy on us and fulfilled your sovereign plan. Help us over this Easter period to come to a deeper understanding of your grace, mercy and love for us, as we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey, the ultimate sacrifice on the cross and the triumph of his resurrection on Sunday. May we be transformed into a people who live to glorify you and who are found worthy of the calling we have received (Ephesians 4:1). Father God, help us to be bold and courageous in asking our friends and family to join us at our church services this Easter. May many respond positively and join us in church over Easter. Lord, help them to clearly hear your gospel message this Easter and to respond in repentance and faith. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Lord, we thank you for the gift of children and the blessing they are to our individual families, but also to our wider church family here at Northern Hope. Thank you for the joy they bring. Lord, thank you that you desire for the little children to come to you and know you (Mark 10:16). Help our church to be a place that always welcomes children and nurtures their faith and relationship with you. Lord, we pray for parents of children, as they seek to raise their children in an age where there is much opposition towards Christian values and often a total disregard for you. Please help parents of our young families to raise their children to love and trust in Jesus, to know their bible, to pray and to be part of our wider church family. May our children come to love and trust you as their Lord and Saviour of their life. We pray also for our children's church. Thank you for the leaders who faithfully lead this ministry each week. We thank you for the many seeds of faith that are planted and watered in children's church. As we come to the Easter school holidays, please provide our children's church leaders with a period of rest and refreshment, so that they can continue serving you in the next school term. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer.**

Father, we bring before you the work of the Christian aid organisation, Compassion. Thank you, Lord, that through Compassion, children living in poverty are able to be nourished both physically and spiritually. Thank you that through Compassion, many children living in poverty are hearing the gospel message and are turning to you in faith. Please continue to help Compassion as it partners with local churches to advance the gospel in nations where children living in poverty abounds. Lord, many of us here have children who we sponsor through Compassion. Thank you for the joy that these relationships bring. Help us to build close relationships with the children and their families. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayers. Amen.**

Northern Hope Anglican Church

24 March 2024

Established 8 January 2023 (Peace Lutheran College, Sundays at 9am)

*Empowered by the Spirit, we are to make disciples of Jesus,
to the glory of God the Father*

- † **Easter Invites:** Good Friday (this very week) and Easter Sunday services are both at 9am. In the bulletins last week there were two invites (one for you and one for someone else). There are also bundles on the entrance table for people's letterboxes. Please take one and pray as you deliver them.
- † **Assistant Pastor:** As we continue to grow (praise God), we find ourselves needing an additional pastor. Please pray for our Lord to provide a most suitable person and for the needed financial provision. It is expected that the advertisement for such will be in the May/June Southern Cross. Please see Craig Waters for any further info.
- † **KYB (Know Your Bible):** we are a fairly new Monday ladies' Bible Study lunch time group that meet in the Whitfield area, and would love to have some more members. Please see Faye Womersley for any further info.
- † **Gafcon Conferences:** July 1-4 - join Anglicans of all generations to explore how Christ is building the future. Following this, there is also a Mini Conference for those in the Southern Cross Diocese (us☺) - July 4 (pm) to July 5 (pm). Please see Trev if interested in either. Both in Brisbane.
- † **Marcus Chiu Chong:** Has sadly died. His funeral is this coming Tuesday 26th March at St John's. Please pray for his wife, Bev, and her family.
- † **Bible Reading:** Zechariah 11:4-17, p1453 and John 12:12-19, p1635.



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ANGLICAN CHURCH

General

BSB: 084 961

Account: 42 066 4612

Building Fund

BSB: 084 961

Account: 98 430 0128

Zechariah 11:4-17 (NIV2011) page 1453

⁴This is what the Lord my God says: 'Shepherd the flock marked for slaughter. ⁵ Their buyers slaughter them and go unpunished. Those who sell them say, "Praise the Lord, I am rich!" Their own shepherds do not spare them. ⁶ For I will no longer have pity on the people of the land,' declares the Lord. 'I will give everyone into the hands of their neighbours and their king. They will devastate the land, and I will not rescue anyone from their hands.'

⁷ So I shepherded the flock marked for slaughter, particularly the oppressed of the flock. Then I took two staves and called one Favour and the other Union, and I shepherded the flock. ⁸ In one month I got rid of the three shepherds.

The flock detested me, and I grew weary of them ⁹ and said, 'I will not be your shepherd. Let the dying die, and the perishing perish. Let those who are left eat one another's flesh.'

¹⁰ Then I took my staff called Favour and broke it, revoking the covenant I had made with all the nations. ¹¹ It was revoked on that day, and so the oppressed of the flock who were watching me knew it was the word of the Lord.

¹² I told them, 'If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.' So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

¹³ And the Lord said to me, 'Throw it to the potter'— the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.

¹⁴ Then I broke my second staff called Union, breaking the family bond between Judah and Israel.

¹⁵ Then the Lord said to me, 'Take again the equipment of a foolish shepherd. ¹⁶ For I am going to raise up a shepherd over the land who will not care for the lost, or seek the young, or heal the injured, or feed the healthy, but will eat the meat of the choice sheep, tearing off their hooves.

*¹⁷ 'Woe to the worthless shepherd, who deserts the flock!
May the sword strike his arm and his right eye! May his arm be completely withered, his right eye totally blinded!'*

**TWO SHEPHERDS – WHICH DO YOU FOLLOW?
ZECHARIAH 11:4-17; JOHN 12:12-19**

† Explanation of Text

† Rejection of Jesus

† How much do you value Jesus?