

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25

A NEIGHBORHOOD PRAYER WALK

Today is our annual celebration of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event that is recorded in all four gospels (see, for example, Matthew 21:1-11). People cheered as Jesus arrived in the capital city. They shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" – an exclamation of praise that the long-awaited Messiah had finally arrived. This was no mere ticker-tape parade in honor of a past event, such as a sports team winning a championship title. This was a celebration of God's anointed one, the Savior of the world, who was bringing about God's salvation in the midst of the people right then and there.

If you are able to go outside today, take a walk through your neighborhood. Envision what it might have been like to be in Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday. Can you see the parade for Jesus coming down your road? Can you smell the palm branches being waved as the procession rounds the corner? Can you hear the chorus swell, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"? Can you imagine reaching out and touching the hand of Jesus as he passes by? What might be the good news that your neighbors have been waiting for?

As you walk through your neighborhood, pray for your neighbors. (If you don't know them by name, make a mental note to introduce yourself sometime this week.) Pray that your neighbors might see Jesus in their own lives. Pray that they might come to know Jesus, if they don't know him already. Pray that the celebration of Jesus as Messiah might overflow from your life into the lives of those who live near you.