

## Litany Of The Palms

*For this particular Palm Sunday for our intercessions we invited everyone to take a strip of scrap fabric from a large basket and to reflect on it, think about where it might have come from, where the inspiration for the pattern or colour might have come from, who might have made it, what the rest of the fabric might have been used for. We thought about the journey's such fabrics might have taken. Then we invited everyone to lay their fabric in the shape of a cross and joined in saying this litany together.*

Come lay your cloth and make the shape of a cross:  
bright African print from a woman's elaborate headscarf  
long sturdy fabric holding a baby on its mother's back  
let us join the journey  
in the procession to a music filled church  
in the daily trek to fetch water and till the land  
in the trips to the bustling colourful markets  
and in the weary, despair-filled journey to feeding camps.

Come lay your cloth and make the shape of a cross  
**as we join the vibrant Palm Sunday dance  
through the reflections of Holy Week  
to the silence at the foot of the cross.**

Come lay your cloth and make the shape of a cross:  
heavy fur-lined fabric worn to guard against the arctic cold  
elaborate woven blankets for gifts to celebrate a birth  
let us join the journey  
in the children's daily skidoo ride to school  
in the summer migration to find natural resources  
in the travelling to the family gathering for ancient ceremonies  
in the protest march to parliament to claim ancestral territories.

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Come lay your cloth and make the shape of a cross:  
smooth silks in vibrant colours to accompany a dragon dance  
beautiful embroidery that adorns the walls of a family home  
let us join the journey  
in the bus ride to work through congested noisy streets  
in the stillness of a stroll through a Zen garden to a Buddhist shrine  
in the carrying of provisions for the tourist's Himalayan trek  
in the evacuation of a village after rains have made hillsides unstable.

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Come lay your cloth and make the shape of a cross  
pictures woven into fabric that tell a people's story

rough cloth woven to keep out the cold of a Peruvian night  
let us join the journey  
in climbing up the steep mountain passes  
in joining the vibrant processions of saints days and holy days  
in dancing to the spectacle of the biggest carnival on earth  
in fleeing the bullets and threat of kidnappings which fund the drugs trade.

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Come lay your cloth and make the shape of a cross  
colourful tartans sold in tourist shops to rugby crowds  
imported linens bought from interior design catalogues  
let us join the journey  
in the good natured pushing and shoving at the football turnstiles  
in walking to school through the park adorned in spring's blossoms  
in queuing at the post office on pension day and buying the weekly mag  
in the fear of the London commuters as they board another crowded train.

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