Our walk to the cross is getting shorter and shorter. This has been such a different Lenten season. Even though we have not been able to worship in person, we have still been bonded together through our meditations each week led by Pastor Dennis Nelson. We are so grateful for his ministry.

I am thinking today of that verse in Isaiah... chapter 49, verse 16. *"Jerusalem, I can never forget you! I have written your name on the palms of my hand."*

To never be forgotten is an amazing thing. I am always so touched when I encounter a former church member and they remind me of a special memory of our time together. Now, seriously... I am sure many over the years have forgotten me completely! But it is very special to be remembered, isn't it?

I love those words from Isaiah so much... "***I HAVE WRITTEN YOUR NAME ON THE PALMS OF MY HAND.***" Think on that for a moment... reflex upon those nail holes on the very palms, the hands of Jesus. Those scars bear the name of each and every one of us. That's quite a powerful image, isn't it? My name... your name. The names of our parents, our grandparents, our children, and our grandchildren. Our friends, and even... our enemies. The names of each one of us are written on those hands.

As we take our final steps to Holy Week, stay focused on the image of the hands of Christ. And remember, no matter what comes our way... *"He will never leave us, or forsake us. Our names are engraved on the hands of Christ."*

Keep that thought in mind during these days. There is not one thing... nothing that will ever separate us from the love of God. Wash your hands, fold them, bow your head and give thanks that you... and even me... have our names written on His palm.

Pray with me: "Dear Lord, so often we feel forgotten. We feel left out. We feel sad and lonely. But we are not alone, and we need to be reminded of that. You paid the ultimate price with the scars upon your hands. For us. Give us strength to walk the walk. Amen. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Pastor Ken Nyhusmoen