

Palm Sunday 2009, Rev. Jennifer Adams
April 5, 2009

One of the beautiful things about Holy Week for me is that as mysterious as all the happenings are, as theologically dense and deep and wide as the themes of this week can be – there are also very simple physical actions and very real things running in and around all of it. As complicated as all of this can seem, there is simplicity too. There are palms that we wave. There are processions that we walk. There are phrases that we shout and feet we wash. There is a meal we share, bread we eat and wine that we drink. There is an altar we strip down ‘til it’s bare. There is silence we sit in together. There is a cross we carry. Perhaps there are tears we cry. There is light we pass, bells we ring and eventually Alleluia’s we sing. There are many amazing and holy things about this Holy Week, but one of them is that this week uses us, it uses us to tell the story. And in doing so we become the story we’ve been invited to tell.

These are our voices. Our hands. Our feet. Our steps. Our bread. Our chewing and swallowing and sitting and waiting. These are our prayers, our wine, our tears, our candles, our bells. This story is open enough to be ours – yours and mine and everyone else who walks into its open arms. And it lives here among us, with us, as us. If we are willing enough to become, to become again.

Now I don’t know what becoming you have yet to do, but odds are good we could all use at least a little of it. And maybe that’s why the story is here – why Christ is here - because God knows there is more for us to be, more for us to see; less for us to carry, more for us to hold; we can all stand to be a little more real; a little less fearful a little more whole; a little less absent a little more present, more honest and faithful, and true. Holy Week is an opportunity to become those kinds of things, with Christ and with one another.

So let the simple actions and simple things of this week stretch you. Shout the words with us this morning and let them reveal the heart wrenching truth that we are all capable of both Hosanna! And Crucify him; then ask what we do with that in our lives. Bring the bread we bless on Thursday and let it feed all of us as we become the Body we share; pass the bread to the person next to you and then wonder on how to do some of that every day. Run warm water over your neighbor’s toes, wrap their feet up to their ankles in a soft towel and ask what compassionate service we can do next week so that it is holy too. Weep at the injustice and cruelty and power of the cross, light a fire in the darkness and let alleluia touch all of those places with a deep and healing and abiding grace. Then take some of that alleluia out into the world and help it transform. This is our Week to tell the story. To let the story tell us.

And so if you haven’t already. And if you’re here you have. Just keep doing it. Thursday and Friday and next Sunday too -- walk your way into the story. Shout your way in. Eat, wash and weep your way in. Shine and alleluia your way in to the story. Bring your hands your feet your voice your bread your wine your towels your tears your light. Bring it all into the story that that gives to us and shapes us and is us becoming and is Christ among us always this holy week and always.