

Dear Friends:

How does Holy Week speak to me in this day and age? It starts with Palm Sunday: a parade, a protest, or rebellion. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, there were people who interpreted his arrival in very different ways. Was it just celebrating a prophet? For some it was. Was it a protest against the religious system that centered more on power than on helping people? For some it was. Was it the beginning of a rebellion to throw off their Roman occupiers and oppressors? For some it was.

Maundy Thursday has in it: fellowship, communion, foot-washing, and a time to say good-bye. It also has betrayal, desertion, torture, and manipulation and exercise of power

Good Friday reminds us that death is real for everyone, and corrupt power negates life for all.

Easter Sunday brings resurrection, but more on that next week.

Some still hang onto and proclaim that January 6<sup>th</sup>, was a parade, maybe a protest, not a rebellion. There are bills going through our state legislatures that are trying to tell people what to think and how to feel by denying the diversity of God's creation and the history of certain groups in our nation.

The story of Jesus isn't just of the happiness of Palm Sunday and the joy of resurrection. We are meant to hear the full story of it ALL. Peter's act of violence in defense of his teacher (rabbi), Jesus' rebuke and healing, and then Peter's denial of himself and Jesus, but then the redemption and his leading the early church. The disciples' fear, the women's strength, corruption of religious authorities, and the brutality of an oppressive system.

If we are uncomfortable with what is happening in the world, maybe we can be uncomfortable with the story of Holy Week, find some correlations, some insights, and some hope in the promise of resurrection that doesn't hide the scars but exposes them and transcends them.

Peace  
Pastor Enno