

Discussion & Reflection Questions 24th of March 2024 - Palm Sunday

Read: John 12:12-16

The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

‘Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!’

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written:

¹⁵ ‘Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!’

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

- 1) The word for shouting in Greek means crying out. The words the crowd are crying out are the words of Psalm 118 which is one of the hymns of the people of Israel. What emotions does singing &/or music evoke for you?
- 2) What do you think the crowd were anticipating as they are crying out these words & waving palm branches?
- 3) What images or feelings are evoked for you as you imagine Jesus riding not on a horse but on a donkey? Is this in contrast to the crowd's response?
- 4) Put yourself in Jesus' position - how would he have felt with all this going on & knowing what was to come?
- 5) Jesus carries with him many expectations. What expectations do you carry for others? What expectations does Jesus carry for you?
- 6) In verse 16 it says the disciples did not understand at first. Are there some things that you still struggle to understand about the Easter story? Can you take those with you throughout this week ahead?

Prayer

Everlasting God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son to take our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross: in your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**