



Palm Sunday “Rise, Let us be Going”

“Is this the prophet Jesus from Nazareth?” This is the question that is asked by those standing by when Jesus rides into Jerusalem. Every procession is a procession to something. This one must end at the Temple. The title is “prophet”, not Messiah. The prophet sees people and God at the same time. The prophet sees so deeply into the present that it applies to similar situations in the future. The prophet speaks in symbols. The prophet is a symbol of the speech of God. The speech of God derives from the eternal silence of God. It is pure speech because it lacks all traces of ego. But prophets blaze with personality traits!

The ego wastes countless hours. What has no connection with the enlargement of the soul is lost in the void of self-advancement. Sometimes a life has many years with only a small portion of it really lived. Christ expanded every moment into endless hours of love and compassion. Such an expansion is in tune with the expansion of the universe. The expansion of the universe in the quest of consummate love is what Jesus meant by the Kingdom or Reign of God. “The kingdom of God is within you” is something that we can only experience. But, amazingly, we can also initiate that expansion of love and compassion within a widening circle around us.

The Prophet rides into Jerusalem with luminous eyes which see unbearable realities. He was not drawn to the cult of the Temple, but in the end he had to come to it. The structure of the Temple housed the relics of the sacred presence of God. All things led to the Temple, and the Temple led to God. If it did not lead to God it should not have been built. The writer of the mysterious fourth Gospel thought the risen body of Christ was a true Temple of the Spirit of God on the earth. It was present for 40 days after the resurrection of Christ, and then it was gone in any visible sense. No longer seen, but always present, as he had promised.

Every human being begins in a place. Jesus was born in Bethlehem but he was raised in Nazareth and he would die outside Jerusalem. These three places and the Lake of Galilee predominate in his life as locations. He was known as Jesus the prophet from Nazareth and “Nazareth” was named at the cross. The name did not occur in the Hebrew Scriptures that Jesus read, but he made Bethlehem and Nazareth the most referred to small towns in human habitations.

Jesus says to his followers, “Rise, let us be going” (Mark 14:42)

The entry into Jerusalem invites us to join the procession.

“Rise, let us be going”, while there is time to participate in the journey.
Bishop Arthur Jones

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18

TO PLAN:

April 18, Holy Monday.

- Eucharist, 7:00pm, Chapel
- Vestry Meeting, 7:30pm, Rectory

April 19, Holy Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Eucharist, 7:00pm, Chapel

April 20, Holy Wednesday.

- Eucharist, 7:00pm

April 21, Maundy Thursday.

- Eucharist, 7:00pm

April 22, Good Friday.

- Stations of the Cross, 11:00am
- Liturgy of Good Friday, 12noon