

TRINITY NEWS

Palm Sunday Looking for the Marks of the Holy on Earth

Palm Sunday is a rare visible expression of the pilgrimage of Christ. It is not like a ticker-tape parade in New York or the parade of Olympic medallists through the streets of the world. The symbols are Palm branches and cloaks torn from backs and a beast of burden who brays at the noise of the crowds. The rider is a young man with long waving hair perhaps, wearing a linen robe. He wears no laurel crown but in a few days he will wear the crown of thorns to indicate that he walks down the long corridors of the echoing sounds of human suffering on his way to the Cross.

There is movement in a procession and there is life. There is a beginning and a destination. The beginning was in God for him and then at a home in Nazareth. All ancient processions ended at a holy place. His intended destination was the Temple, the holy place set in stone to enshrine stone tablets. We do not know how he felt that day, the only time he was ever really proclaimed publicly in his life as a true prophet of Israel and the coming Messiah. It occurred in the centre of power in his nation, at Jerusalem. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, hosanna in the highest!" still wells up in those who love him as he passes by. He was fulfilling a legend written and spoken by the prophets of Israel about a messianic prophet who would speak like no other, act like no other, and be remembered like no other ever to be received into the hands of a mother on this earth.

We have to look to diligently find the marks of the holy on this earth. The traditional marks of the Church are that it is One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. We find these words packed into the phrases of the Creeds. The Jews sang out their words of praise as the donkey plodded along with the feet of the rider grazing the earth. But even then they knew better than the Christians who came after them that nothing could ever contain what came from this luminous figure. That was what frightened the religious power brokers.

What came from him was without seam or tailoring to suit the dreams and manipulations of others. His heart and his thinking and his acts were a seamless robe of truly human expression, like the tunic he wore before he was stripped for execution.

Hold the palm cross in your hand today and feel the resonances of the ripple of the Sacred on that first Day of the Palms. Hold the bread in your hand, drink the wine and feel the warmth of a life that still lives in the heart of God. The holiest place on earth is wherever you find him and where what he taught and lived is still re-enacted in holy lives that are not afraid of failures.

Every time you show love unfeigned to another, you bring his touch. Every time you nurture a child as he nurtured them, you place them in his arms. Every time you bring hope to someone who has no hope, you express his abiding hope for all of us. When you suffer, listen to his cry of anguish from the Cross. Take heart from his rejection of all pretence about the affect of great pain and the isolation and loneliness that it brings. He cried out there for all the suffering and lost of the world. That ultimately means every one of us, even those who deny it the loudest and claim that they are impervious to it.

Bishop Arthur Jones

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

MARCH 30-APRIL 1.

**MONDAY, TUESDAY &
WEDNESDAY**

- Holy Eucharist, 7:00 p.m.,
Chapel

APRIL 2. MAUNDY THURSDAY.

- Holy Eucharist & Washing of the
feet, 7:00 p.m.

APRIL 3. GOOD FRIDAY.

- Stations of the Cross, 11:00 a.m.
- Liturgy of Good Friday, 12 noon

*****April 2 & 3-
Legal holidays. Office closed.**

NEXT WEEK:



Eucharist at
7:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.
Readings: Acts 10:34-43;
Psalm 118
Colossians 3:1-4; Mark 16:1-8