

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"Happy Homecoming" 3/20/24

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

His steadfast love endures forever! (Ps 118:1)

It started small, as a dream, it became a plan. A second son of a well to do land owner, saw before himself only days of hard labor and he wanted to live. So he asked his father to sell off assets and give him his inheritance now, so he could go and see the world, do what he pleased, enjoy life before he got too old.

And so it was. Off he went with pockets full of spending money, and soon he'd spent it all. He'd enjoyed his new found friends and fun, but when the money was gone, he was alone and hungry. The only job he could find was caring for a herd of pigs. Pigs! Soon he was forced to share their slop, this was not part of his plan.

"Maybe dad'll take me come back, even if it's only as a servant, at least I'd eat people food," he figured. Showing steadfast love, his dad welcomed his home, threw open his arms, covering him with his finest cloak and threw him a BBQ. Truly a happy homecoming.

As Jesus' journey comes to an end, the good and difficult days, the joy and the heartbreak, the rejoicing and the sorrow all come together in a triumphant entry into Jerusalem.

It's bittersweet as we look back on it. There is no military steed for Him to ride, but a colt. No brass band, but people shouting, "Hosanna!" No flags, but people throwing down their coats and palms branches before Him. God became human, humbly born in a stable, humbly starting a revolution of love, humbly arriving at the hour of His death. Yet, nowhere, in no time or place, has there been such a parade.

Our journey, our Lenten journey comes to an end this week. We have faced our own dreams, made our own plans, suffered disappointments and losses. Here we stand, maybe not sure of what is next, maybe celebrating, maybe dreading the next step or decision, maybe proud of what we've accomplished, maybe falling short of our goals. Maybe hoping for a happy ending, maybe just hoping to withstand the next step. But we can be assured, if we feel it or not, God is with us on this journey. We can be assured, no matter what, no matter where our journey took us; when we return, God's steadfast love endures forever and He will welcome us back.

Please pray with me.

God of steadfast love, thank You. Thank You for Your forgiveness, for Your never ending love and acceptance. Lord, thank You that even though I am prone to wander, You always welcome me back with open arms. Thank You for Your journey on earth which teaches us how to live and for Your steadfast love.

Amen.