

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"End of the Journey" 4/10/24

But these are written so you may come to believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and through believing you may have life in his name.

It had been a long journey from a donkey ride to Bethlehem to a donkey ride into Jerusalem. Many dusty roads. Some smooth roads, but most of them filled with potholes. Many hungry – physically and spiritually – people to feed. Many disagreeable people, especially the religious ones. Many hardships, but so much joy. The look on the faces of those set free, those who got it, those who were filled, those who grabbed ahold of the peace He offered.

Now, now the story begins its conclusion. The grand parade, the palm branches and hosannas as He entered Jerusalem. Now for the Passover meal to be shared with those with whom He was the closest, those who have seen it all, understanding some of it, wondering about some of it, but holding on to faith in all of, in who He was, the Son of God.

Proof doesn't need faith, or with faith they didn't need proof, they believe because, well because so far, He has been right about everything, talking in riddles some days, teaching through story's, thinking outside of the box all of the time, but doing everything with love. Having compassion. He would not lie. It wasn't His character. They might argue, to protect Him. They may lie to protect themselves, still they were only human. It was mind blowing to make sense of it all.

They could feel it in their bones, something was about to happen, and it wouldn't be good. The authorities had all but nailed up a wanted poster of the Teacher. One of these days they would nab Him. It did not bode well for any of them.

They were right and wrong. It was the end of their physical journey. It was always destined to end in Jerusalem. It was always destined to end on a hill far away. But it was not over, it is still now over.

Jesus had to be put to death if God was going to raise Him from the dead. There has to be darkness if we are to observe the sunrise. This is life, this is God's power over death. Darkness can never obscure the Light of Christ. Faith is meant to strengthen us on our journey, even over unpaved roads. Faith is meant to override doubt.

The stone was rolled away, not to let Jesus out, but so we could see He was no longer among the dead. He lives, and because He lives, we, also, can live.

Please pray with me:

God of Light, God of Life, we are humbled and thank You for coming to earth, for traveling the dusty roads – for us. For showing us how to live and how to love. For undergoing the pain of death to set the captives free. For rescuing us from Satan's hold, from ourselves. For rising from death to life; so we may know, really know and rest in the knowledge, we, too, shall live. May our lives of faith share Your story. May we live in the eternal hope of resurrection. **Amen.**