

A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

"What A Parade" 4/6/22

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!" (John 12:13b)

Jesus rides into Jerusalem. People stand on the side of the road cheering. Waving palms. Shouting Hosanna. Jesus finally receives the recognition He deserves. They've heard Him teach at temple. They've eaten bread enough from His hands. They've been healed. They've seen love in His eyes. They've been accepted and forgiven. This is the Man and they welcome His return to Jerusalem.

We always think we are fair. We want to be treated others in the way in which we'd like to be treated. And who wouldn't want a parade held in their honor?

We've wandered through the season of Lent, journeying to Jerusalem. The day has arrived. The glory given. A snap shot in time. Soon forgotten, becoming a distant memory. Those waving the palms would change their tune, following the lie of the enemy and cry for this man's death. They'd forget the teaching, the bread, the healings, the love. Yet, they'd still be forgiven. Still welcomed at the table. What kind of man is this?

We don't like it when people turn on us. It makes life a lie. It cuts to the quick and we doubt everything. Yet Jesus humbly received their accolades as He rode into town, and He forgave them as He walked the way up Golgotha. What wondrous love is this, O my soul? How can I be forgiven?

Jesus came to show God's love for us – to us. Jesus lived out His love for us – and the people took His life. The glory of the parade. The joy of having known this moment in history. This Sunday is bitter sweet. It is a picture of the human soul, of how fast we can turn, how fast we can turn. It is a snap shot of how much God loves us. This is the message.

This is a difficult week to recall. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week and the events many of which we do not want to be reminded. But if we don't welcome Jesus to Jerusalem, if He is not betrayed and nailed to the cross, there is no Easter.

The message is this, For God so loved the world He sent His only begotten Son, so all who believe on Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Thanks be to God.

Please pray with me. Father, thank you for your love. Thank you for coming to earth as a human to show me this love, so I can experience it. Thank You for the life of Christ, the way He lived, setting an example for how I am to live. May I show this love to others. Help me to be able to forgive, in Your Name, those who turn on me. Thank You for the gift of Palm Sunday and the witness of Your love. **Amen.**