



bits from bob....

**Palm Sunday – Jesus Wants You to Know Peace
(April 2020)**

Palm Sunday, the Triumphal Entry. This year, Palm Sunday will be unlike any we have known before. Do we know the story? Have we grasped the details? Palm Sunday – the day Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Luke 19.

In 2015, Jan and I saw these places—the road leading from Bethany to Jerusalem reaches a peak before it begins its descent past the Mount of Olives, down into the Kidron Valley, then up to the east side of the city. Luke tells us that on Sunday, Jesus rode toward Jerusalem, ascending the east side of the mountain. As he reached the summit, near the place where the road begins to descend past the Mount of Olives, crowds assembled, including some Pharisees (Lk. 19:39). The crowds spread their cloaks and joyfully sang (19:36-38). As the city came into view (19:41), Jesus wept, wishing that the city had known the true source of peace.

Palm Sunday 2020 is a time to connect the Triumphal Entry and Jesus' grief. Jesus desires that everyone know peace. He came to give peace. Today the world we live in does not feel peaceful. In stress and difficulty, most feel more turmoil than peace. Many do not know the source of true peace. As Luke connects Palm Sunday with Jesus' desire to bring peace to the world, I think of three things Christians can do to make Jesus' desire a reality.

First, we can pray for peace – we can pray for those serving on the front lines to combat Coronavirus, for those who are ill, for those who have lost loved ones. We can pray for those who struggle with the pressures of life, praying that they will come to know the Prince of Peace.

Second, we should proclaim peace. At Jesus' birth (Luke 2), angels proclaimed peace on earth. As Jesus begins his ministry, he declares that he comes to proclaim good news and liberty from the oppression that so easily imprisons people (Luke 4).

Third, may we practice peace, may we be peacemakers. May we live in the peace of God so that we are examples to those in turmoil, so that they will seek to know the one who came to give us peace.

In these three simple commitments, the peace of God that passes all comprehension can become reality for multitudes in our tumultuous world. May you have a peaceful Palm Sunday!