

Rev. George Arceneaux

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Palm Sunday

Friends, this morning, this is one Sunday where as I get into the pulpit with no Hebrew Bible reading, no Epistle, no.... well kind of a lot of things for this Palm Sunday because we're about to really dive into the days of Jesus' life and death and living again I kinda hope I DON'T deliver some particular point or sage wisdom as I might aspire to in other sermons. I'm hoping to stand back as let the story do its work, because while I will preach on this tale many times and you have likely heard many sermons about it.... I want to remember that Holy Week is too big for a particular message. Too big to preach primarily on what Jesus death may or not mean, too big to preach on the joys of Jesus' procession into Jerusalem or the resurrection, too big to preach on the grief and the loss and the death because Holy Week and this story which is accounted in not just the four different Gospels but in each of our hearings of it, the story is too big to be confined.

But that's why this story matters as much as it does. It's too big to be pidgeon holed into a single sermon or a single meaning. And thank God. Because that means that it's a story big enough to hold *you*. And what ever you need this Holy Week. You may be in a place of excitement at something new like Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. You may be nervous about some undertaking and preparing as Jesus did on his final night with his friends at that last supper. You may be bearing your cross on hard cobble stones, feeling alone. And despairing. You may be crying out "eloi eloi sabbathana" "My God my God why have you forsaken me" and feeling ultimate loss and pain or you may even be crying "Into your hands I commend my spirit" earnestly undertaking some challenge that will take everything you have.

But my words, whether or not anything I say in this pulpit matters at all, human words certainly pale in comparison to the point God will be making to you in the solitude of your heart this week. A still small voice meant for you in whatever you may hold.

So this is the question I want to ask and one I hope you'll hold these seven days as we travel to the empty tomb.

What do *you* need? Where are you hurt and need to feel loved? Where have you made mistakes, even terrible ones, and need to know that forgiveness and hope are always possible? Where do you need to exult and shout and join in triumph over how you have answered God's call to love in only the way that you can?

There is something in you that will call this week. And only you can hear what that is. So listen. Drink deep of this story and truth in it. What do you need? Listen.

**DON'T SAY AMEN GEORGE**