

Good morning,

So here we are, Palm Sunday, what a wonderful reading. The church is best known for our story telling and great theological debates, we are often confronted with and intrigued by these wide spanning, huge questions.

What is the nature of evil, of Gods sovereignty, of justification or Love and grace.

But here we have on Palm Sunday a story, that is so specific in detail, so intimate in nature that it invites us to really understand... that Jesus really walked on this earth, and that God knows what it means to be human.

This is a special palm Sunday for me, it's a special holy week, you know I've been here with you all for three years, and this is the first time that I have walked this palm procession with you. I'm pretty happy about it.

I want you to keep walking toward where God is calling you, and like Jesus, this will take us through some highs and lows. But keep walking. This palm Sunday story is a story of triumph in the face of adversity. This is a story of great faith.

As we continue through this day, and through the whole of holy week, I want us to consider something. I want us to consider what an immense privilege it is to be able to gather together as church community.

You know that to be able to do this has not been an easy feat over these past few years. They say that we will reach a million deaths by easter from covid. A million deaths. One million people.

We know death. We know pain. We know loss. But this holy week we will know resurrection. We will walk in faith through this Palm Sunday, and maundy Thursday,... through the all-night vigil, yall are going to sign up to keep watch at 2 am and come that glorious Sunday morning we will find that tomb empty.

And our lord risen!

So I want to encourage you, I want to encourage you this holy week to think about your life and to try something.

I want you to try to, live off of the page. I don't want you just to read these stories but I want you to experience them, just as Jesus experienced them. I want you to live off of the page.

Paul in our reading from Philippians I think sums up very nicely what I mean by living off of the page this holy week. He says Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself.

This holy week let us have the same mind as Christ, let us empty ourselves and walk humbly and faithfully through this palm Sunday all the way through this holy week. Let us Live off of the page, actually live this stuff.

It will change your life.

Amen