



**Just a reminder
that this
Sunday is
PALM SUNDAY**

**The crosses
will be given to
everyone at
Christ Church
when we are
able to open
our doors for
worship once
again.**

This meditation for Palm Sunday by someone called Janet Stobie was sent to me:

"I've heard the Palm Sunday scripture each year since I started Sunday School. As a child waving that giant fan like branch felt like a huge celebration. When I followed my friends down the church aisle, all those adults staring at me dampened the party somewhat, but certainly didn't ruin it for me. I remember imagining I was there with Jesus, skipping along beside the donkey. The coming events of Holy Week didn't even register on my radar. I skipped passed Good Friday right on to Easter Sunday. I didn't think about the significance of the parade or who might be watching.

As an adult I want to understand more about this story. I want to find the relevance it has for me as an individual and for our world today. One way of doing that is to place myself in the story, but this time as an adult. I invite you to join me in this process. Read Matthew 21:1-11. When you've finished reading, turn to the meditation below. Take some time to answer each question as thoroughly and honestly as you can.

In your mind's eye see the scene. You're right outside the Golden Gates that mark the entrance to Jerusalem. The setting sun shines directly on those gates nearly blinding you, when you look back to the city. It's hot and dry. There's not much grass in this dry land. A growing crowd is lining both sides of the road and still more people are pouring through the gates. People are jostling one another, excited because Jesus, the great teacher and healer is coming. You've found a good spot in the crowd. What thoughts are floating through your mind? Are you happy to be there? Are you anxious to see Jesus? How do you feel about him? Is he a hero or an enemy?

As you peer down the road you see them coming, men, women, a few children, their sandals kicking up dust in the dry air. One man is riding, the donkey just a little small, so his long legs drag in the dust. The stranger standing next to you points and yells, "There he is." Your eyes follow the line of his pointing finger. You ask, "On the donkey, is that Jesus on the donkey?"

The stranger nods. As they approach people around you cut palms from the trees and wave them. A chant rises from the watchers. "Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna, to the son of David." Are you joining them or standing back and just watching?

A victorious king rides a donkey as he returns to his city. What victory is Jesus celebrating?

The little party passes directly in front of you. Your eyes are drawn to Jesus. He turns his head. Your eyes meet and hold their gaze.

What message are you receiving from Jesus? What would you like to tell him?

The moment is fleeting. He smiles and turns to someone else. In minutes the parade is over. Did you wave your flag?

As you watch the little band of people pass through the gates, you realize the sun has dropped even lower. They disappear from view. How are you feeling now? What will you tell your friends about this encounter?"

May you all have a blessed Holy Week. With my prayers and best wishes, Michael