Springfield Presbyterian Church

March 28th, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Lent

Palms to Passion

The Road We Walk

1. The Road We Walk

Today, instead of a full-length sermon, I’m going to offer us a short reflection, because the Scriptures as we have read them give you plenty to consider and ponder throughout the week.

We see different scenes as we walk the road in this passage, from palms, to Passover, to betrayal, to condemnation and the road seems to stop at the Cross. It seems that the story ends, the tomb is closed over with that gigantic rock, and we are faced with the sacred silence that accompanies our lives without a Savior. And while we know the end of the story, of the great day of resurrection – I remind you, and I remind myself – we aren’t there yet. Right now we live in the conflict, the tension, the beloved Savior on a cross, yet days before praised – we live where joy and sorrow hold hands.

The road, every year as I hear these passages, it never seems to dull the gory feelings that accompany it. I’m always struck by the Hosannas. I’m always struck by the harshness of the calls to “Crucify Him!”. It doesn’t get easier or less complicated, but the words are still fresh in our souls.

The challenge for you this week is not one that is by any means simple, but it sounds simple: stay in the text. Read the passages throughout the week and don’t rush to Easter. Live in a place where you have to sit and be uncomfortable. Light a candle, open the book to a particular passage, and then close it after reading it and live into the discomfort. In fact, do that thing that makes you uncomfortable – if silence is hard for you, push the silence just one more minute than you think you can bear. If living in the text is hard – if hearing the words and wanting to rush to Easter is hard – then challenge yourself to shut the book, open the door, and walk outside. You cannot have Easter, without Lent, and certainly, you cannot feel the triumphant joy of Easter without the depths of Holy Week.

Until Sunday, my friends, until Sunday, may you walk this hard road together, sitting and listening and learning. Stay a while, sing softly, listen humbly, and remain in hope. The discomfort is important. We cannot, nor should we dull it over the years. Our Savior lived and breathed and was welcomed with hosannas. And in the course of our reading, we hear that he has breathed his last. And the book closes, for the time being, the story is seemingly over. It is finished. Amen.