



Wednesday Prayer

Palm/Passion Sunday – Hosanna, save us!

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, ‘The Lord needs them.’ And he will send them immediately.” This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, “Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

Matthew 21:1-9

On Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday, it is easy to picture the celebration of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. The townspeople lined the street and shouts of Royal Language rang out, “Hosannah, save us, save us!”. Children lined the street waving palm fronds, with no real idea who or what they were celebrating. I too, when a child, used to stand on a curb, I was embedded in a crowd of people. Surrounded by knees and waists that in my imagination quickly become tall grasses and trees in the Serengeti, completely not caring about the purpose for the cheers. A whole world in being created. What a lovely thing the protection offered by the grasses and trees, parents and adults around, not realizing they are planted in the earth and covered by leaves. That is what the children would say. “In you we find safety at the edge of the curb, and our imaginations go wild.”

Jesus paid attention to the weak and vulnerable, the ritually unclean, and young people, creating an environment where any child, or adult, or grandma would feel valued, loved, protected and given freedom to live life with exuberance and creativity. May we all become forests and long grasses, a habitat of love with palm fronds waving in the breeze. Hosanna, Hosanna. **Amen.**

Written by Pastor Nathan Tuff, Lead Pastor at Olivet Lutheran Church, Sylvania Ohio & Cherish All Children Advisory Board Member.

Join us each week for our [Lenten Prayer series](#), to keep children and *all* who provide support to youth in our prayers as we journey through this season of Lent.