

We have read 2 scriptures from the gospel according to Mark. The first Scripture tells the story that inspires us to wave palm branches in the air and process into the sanctuary. The story of Jesus coming into Jerusalem just days before his life would come to an end in a tragic way.

Each of the four gospels records this event that we celebrate every year for Palm Sunday. The four gospels differ on some of the details of the event including whether or not the people waved palm branches. But even though the gospels differ on some of the content they all concur that Jesus came into Jerusalem and a crowd met him upon his arrival.

All four gospels concur that the crowds were excited to welcome Jesus into Jerusalem as they were all preparing to celebrate the Jewish festival of Passover.

This morning we began worship but singing “Hosanna.” In our first gospel reading we heard how the people shouted “Hosanna” as Jesus entered into Jerusalem. Hosanna is a word which means “God Save Us.” The people were yearning for a Savior to save them although they may have had different understandings of what this meant.

In our second reading this morning, we were invited into a story that happened just a couple of days before the life of Jesus would move toward tragedy. A woman comes near him and pours ointment on his head. Some complained that this ointment could have been given to the poor but these people cared nothing about charity. These were simply people who wanted to complain about anything that involved Jesus.

But Jesus welcomes her outpouring of love and sacrifice. Jesus proclaims that this woman will be remembered. It was for people like this that Jesus came. The often overlooked and misunderstood people.

We are now going to watch a film clip. This is from the short movie called “Most.” After watching this movie clip I think you will understand why we are watching it this Holy Week.

This movie is set in Europe. In the opening scene a man and his son are walking to where he works. The father is a draw bridge operator and his son has asked his father if he could go to work with his father. Reluctantly the father says “yes” and off they go.

The father is responsible for lifting up the bridge when a boat needs to go through and making sure the bridge is down when a train comes along the tracks.

In addition to the draw bridge operator and his son you will also see scenes of people on the train. You will see a diversity of people on the train. Some happy and in love and some struggling with addictions. This train is heading toward the bridge.

The clip we are going to watch is long compared to other clips we may show for a sermon. It is 10 minutes long. But showing the entire 10 minutes is essential to understand the message.

“Most” from 14:00 – 24:50

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ_tDVNLrnA

I hope this film allowed us to catch a glimpse of the love that God has for each of us. This Holy Week is an invitation into seeking to understand and accept the incredible love that God has for us. AMEN.

-Given: March 29, 2015 in Allison Creek Presbyterian (York, SC)