April 2, 2023 ROAD TO JERUSALEM

The celebration of Palm Sunday has always been a bittersweet moment in the life of the Church: Symbolically the palm branch represented victory, triumph and peace, but the cries of the people on that Palm Sunday Jesus Parade missed the distinct kind of victory and peace which the Messiah alone would bring, namely, peace with God through the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

On this Palm Sunday, we remember Jesus’s entry to Jerusalem.   If we ask people to describe life in general, most will say it is a path or a road. The reason is simple, life is like a journey. It’s a voyage from one experience to the next, from one tribulation to triumph and back again. For Christians it’s a journey from birth to death and beyond.

This Sunday we have been granted the privilege to travel down the road of our Savior’s life. We traverse a specific street today because we’re in a special weekend in the annual celebration cycle of the Christian church. We can call it “The Pathway of Palm Sunday”. As we walk with our Savior, we can see this as: “A Familiar Road” and “A Unique Journey”.

A Familiar Road: It was a familiar road the disciples found themselves on that first Palm Sunday. It was the road to Jerusalem and they had walked it many times before. They knew, as they reached the town of Bethany, they would see the city of Jerusalem suddenly stretch out before them. They had traveled this way with Jesus before. They would again come to the city, which, at this time, would be swelling with millions ready to celebrate the Passover.

A Unique Journey: We learn more as we travel this pathway this morning. As we walk the pathway of Palm Sunday we realize that all of us walk down a road in this life. Each path may be a bit different, although we know the roads of our lives, Jesus knows the journey- we don’t. Let me repeat that: We may know the roads, but Jesus knows the journey. And it’s really HIS journey; it’s his journey into our hearts, and into the hearts and lives of others. It’s a matter of his Kingdom coming, not ours.

At the heart of Palm Sunday is a path. It’s the path our humble Savior rode on in majesty, and lowly pomp, as he went on to suffer and die for our sins. It’s about the path Christ humbly rides into our hearts today through His Word. Let’s share that Word daily, and remember that our roads, our journeys, really aren’t just about us. They are about Christ Jesus, and his salvation. Our lives are about his Kingdom- his rule in our hearts and in the hearts of others through faith. You may not be the main character of your life, but you and I and all believers are the ones who benefit from Christ’s work and from his journeys. Ride on, Jesus, be with us always on your journey to save!

Today as we look at “The Road to Jerusalem” our attention will be drawn to two things, first it was a road that had to be traveled and second, it was a road that would change mankind for all eternity. This road has led Jesus Christ to the mount Calvary. The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ was the complete payment for the sins of the world. No other sacrifice was sufficient and no other sacrifice was required. And according to the scriptures he laid down his life that all might live.

When Paul writes to Galatians 2: 20, we read “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”. Remember in order to save the world from their sins, in order to save you and me, from our sins, Jesus must first walk down “The Road to Jerusalem”. If you would like to learn more of Jesus' Journey please join us in our worship on Sunday at 11:00 AM.

Peace!

Rev. Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj

Minister

West Center Congregational Church