

# Palm Sunday 2015

Crowds gathered when they heard the news that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. Jesus had sent two disciples to the village and told them they would find a tethered donkey. "Untie it and bring it back." said Jesus. They brought the donkey to Jesus and they threw their cloaks across its back for his comfort. Traditionally, entering the city on a donkey symbolizes an arrival in peace. Many others came and spread their cloaks and palm branches along the road. As he entered the city, hundreds gathered around Jesus, in front or in back of him and cried out, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God."

The disciples walked with Jesus, throughout the coming days not understanding the events of the entire week, until after Jesus was glorified. The week was amazing and confounding. Jesus attempted to prepare his followers for his leaving. He shared the great supper with the disciples, which continues to nourish us with His living, life giving presence. Friday, a very dark day, followed by shock, puzzlement and grief. Then Easter Sunday, resurrection, Alleluias!

For most of us it is often in hindsight that we allow the Spirit to reveal the true meaning and impact of



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*Women of Providence in Collaboration*

an event. A disappointment, a defeat, even death of family or friends may eventually lead us to paths and results beyond far better than what we had imagined. However, our personal lenten sacrifices and times of reflection serve no purpose unless we are able to focus on our heart's deepest longing--unity with Christ.

We are seemingly recovering from a serious economic downturn. In hindsight we recognize it has also resulted in raising our national conscience--individuals, our churches, and many helping organizations have discovered new and creative ways to reach out to those in need.

As a Chaplain Intern, at the end of each quarter, our CPE supervisor would begin the closing celebration, "Today we are going to do what we came to do. We came in order to leave." A simple statement and yet it spoke to me a personal and spiritual message. It was true for Jesus and it is for each of us. We have come in order to leave. Alleluia!

WPC Sisters and Associates, as we begin Holy Week, our concerns are many and we are, as Providence women and men, joining with others speaking out about war, uncontrollable violence and death, and we are showing up in different places, for immigration, prison reform, global health, and religious freedom. We are daring to live our charism in this evolving world. In everything that we do, the love of Christ impels us to respond to the cry of the poor and the vulnerable. Blessings for all, as we journey together through this most sacred week.

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"It is easy to love God in all that was beautiful. The lessons of deeper knowledge though, instructed me to embrace God in all things."  
--St. Francis of Assisi