**St. David’s Episcopal Church**

Bean Blossom, Indiana

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 10, 2022

Sermon by the Rev. Kate Wilson

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Confusing. Out of order. A downer. Like whiplash. These are some of the descriptions of Palm Sunday, or, more precisely The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday, as Jean has so correctly recorded it on our bulletin for this morning.

If you have vague memories of once having both Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday, that is reason enough to be confused by today’s service. If you were vaguely attuned to great sweeps of change in the Church in the 1960s, you might remember that there used to be both Passion Sunday and Palm Sunday and that Vatican II combined them. Cynical people would say it was to accommodate people who wouldn’t return to church until Easter Sunday, to be sure they would get the full reading of the Passion of Christ, but it takes worshippers back to liturgy much more aligned to the early Church. Nonetheless, it leaves us with a bittersweet feel, moving so rapidly from cries of “Hosanna! Hosanna!” “Save us!” “Save us from the Romans”, or “Save us from sin!” to “Crucify Him!”, “Crucify him”, and the heartbreak of the passion of Christ.

One of the miracles of maturity is that we are able to entertain two emotions at the same time, even conflicting emotions. It may even be a salvation for us, our ability to hold onto joy under crushing circumstances. And that is where we are called to go today. We contemplate the humanity of those in Jerusalem millennia ago with our humanity today. We understand how propaganda and messaging can turn our heads or the minds of people we barely know or those we love and cherish. It helps us to hold fast to them, despite ourselves. And there is Christ’s call: To love others as he loves us. We may be unable to manage this perfectly, but that is our call. Seeing the human condition and the worst of human motivation inflicted on the living God pierces us. But what demonstrates our calls to Christ’s way of living more clearly? Hosanna Jesus! Save us!

*Thanks be to God.*