

April 14, 2019
Sixth Sunday of Lent (Palm/Passion Sunday)
Into Jerusalem
Luke 19:28-40

Palm Sunday is a Sunday of possibility and expectancy. There's a colt and cloaks on the road, people shouting and a lot of excitement. Jesus is coming! There's a party atmosphere with neighbors that don't like the noise and tell Jesus to keep his followers quiet. But Jesus replies, "Even if everyone was quiet the stones would shout." Can you imagine feeling so much hope and joy at the entrance into your city or town of someone who represents not a political, military or sports victory, but the coming of peace itself?

The day after Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he went to the temple and turned over the tables of people who were buying and selling and changing money. He drove them out saying, "my house shall be a house of prayer; but you have made it a den of robbers" (Luke 19:46). The economic injustice of the money-changers' profiteering in the temple infuriates Jesus and this is one of the few times we witness his righteous anger.

At that time, following Jesus meant making choices about whose side you were on. Christians still make those kinds of choices. But we followers of Jesus have not done such an excellent job of understanding his message of compassion and love. Instead, for two thousand years, we've often been part of the same kind of brutal power systems as the one in Jerusalem long ago. And all of this time, the God of compassion and love must have wept.

This week, as we stumble toward Jerusalem, we can rely on God's grace to carry us every step of the way and trust the unknown future to the God who works good in every circumstance and in every holy week of our lives.

Work this week for peace and economic justice. Here are some ideas:

- Start a prayer and meditation group in your church with a focus on peace.
- Find ways to use your voice in solidarity with others who may not always be heard.
- If there are ways in which you are serving the master of money in your life, free yourself!
- Put love into action: right some wrongs with an organization seeking economic justice.

