

From the Pastor

March 27, 2018

This week is Holy Week. On Sunday we commemorated Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. The palm branches we waved will be used at next year's Ash Wednesday service.



On Thursday, we will remember the night before Jesus' death when he gave his disciples the new commandment to love each other as he distributed the bread and wine to them following their meal together in the Upper Room. The Gospels and the writings of Paul all tell us that Jesus declared after giving them bread, "This is my body which is given for you," and that after he gave them the cup of wine, he said to them, "This is the cup of the new covenant in my blood." Both Paul and the Gospel of Luke tell us that Jesus went on to say "keep doing touto," that is, "this thing."

Obviously, 'this thing' refers to the ritual of Jesus breaking bread and distributing it along with the cup of wine, but to limit his words to the literal duplication of his gestures is surely to miss the greater message. We too, are to give our lives to others in service, as we say in our order of Holy Communion, "we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice in union with Christ's offering for us."

On Friday we will especially reflect on the depth of God's love for us through the gift of God's Son. What an amazing time to join with other Christians and focus on all that God has done for us.

Sunday morning we celebrate the resurrection and begin a whole new season that calls us all to new life as we serve the Christ who was dead, but now lives and reigns with God the Father and Holy Spirit forever. Thank you for all you do to make serving and worshipping God an important part of our community and world!

Happy Easter!

Craig

P.S. We are touched by Judy McClaran's gift of remembering the church in her will. She was much loved and deeply missed.