



Gay Street United
Methodist Church



Palm Sunday

Homemade E-devos

April 7, 2022

Reflection— Rev. Karen Oehl

Jesus Wept

As Jesus came to the city and observed it, he wept over it. He said, "If only you knew on this of all days the things that lead to peace." Luke 19:41-42b

On this of all days, Jesus says; the day he was riding into Jerusalem on a colt that had never been ridden. The day the whole throng of his disciples began rejoicing, singing the same words that the angels sang at Jesus' birth: "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens."

The procession looked, felt and sounded like a victory procession.

But Jesus wept. There are only two times in the Bible that we have this phrase. One is this occasion, his lament over Jerusalem. The other is outside the tomb of Lazarus. On both occasions the tears spring from a moment of high and highly mixed emotions: grief, joy, anger, frustration, empathy, love. Triumph and tragedy, tragedy and triumph.

On this of all days, Jesus laments with that most bitter of human phrases: if only. On behalf of Jerusalem, beloved city that kills the prophets, he expresses regret. If only.

I find myself wondering if. . .if they had known the ways that lead to peace, what would have been different? What is this peace, what are these ways? In the Bible peace means so much more than simply a cessation of war. It is a state of relationship with each other and with God that is nurturing, healthy, whole and holy. In this state of peace/*shalom*, war is not possible. In this state of peace/*shalom*, no one is lost. In this state of peace/*shalom*, people know God.

We are weeping in this time of all times. We are heading into Holy Week, the story that defines us as Christians. It is also Passover and Ramadan all over the world. These should be times of peace and holiness and rejoicing in what God has done. But there is division and hatred. A bitter and brutal war is being waged against Ukraine. There are food and health emergencies all over the globe. The most vulnerable people are suffering.

We are weeping, but we can do more. Consider Jesus, his life and teaching. What did he show us of the ways that lead to peace: healing, forgiveness, finding the lost, blessing the children, reaching out to strangers, serving, self-sacrifice, in all things trusting God.

No more if only. Now is the time to ONLY find the ways that lead to peace.

Blessings on the king who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven. Luke 19:38

*Hosanna
in the
Highest!*

