

Wandering Heart

Small Group Study & Video Devotional

Week Six - Songs of Loudest Praise

John 12:12-16

12 The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. **13** So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—
the King of Israel!”

14 Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

15 “Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming,
sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

16 His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him.

Wandering in the Text

In John’s gospel before coming to Jerusalem for the Passover, Jesus has raised Lazarus from the dead, which intensifies the plots to arrest and kill him. He retreats with his disciples into the wilderness (John 11:54), before traveling back to Lazarus’ home in Bethany, where he is lavishly anointed and cared for by Mary, foreshadowing his death.

Imagine how Peter perceived Jesus’ palm parade into Jerusalem.

- Does Peter feel exuberant, witnessing the crowd’s praise?
- Does he feel skeptical and scared of anyone who might be trying to arrest Jesus?
- Is he thinking about when Jesus rebuked him (Matt 16:13-20), worrying that Jesus’ words about his death would come true?

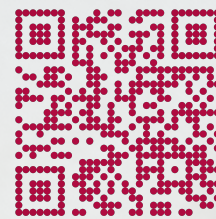
John’s gospel tells us that “his disciples did not understand these things.” The word “understand,” in Greek is γινώσκω (ginōskō) ‘to know.’

- What do you think Peter (and the disciples) did not know or understand?
- Has there been a season of uncertainty in your faith journey?
- Looking back on this time, do you have more clarity, or a new perspective?
- What changed?
- What allowed you to have this new perspective?

Consider

- How does Dave explain the role of the Holy Spirit in the music ministry of the church?
- When (or how) have you experienced the presence of God's Spirit in the music ministry at WHPC?
- What about Dave's story makes you curious or intrigued?
 - What does his story teach you?
 - How does it inspire you?
- What role has music played in your faith journey?
 - Do you have a special song that is meaningful to you?
- What song is God singing over your life right now?
 - How do (or can) you "enter" or "join in" with God's celebration and song?
 - How (or when) might you stay on the sidelines and not join in?
- What does it mean to "rejoice always, pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances?"

Watch Week Six Video



www.whpc.org/new-blog/2024/2/19/lenten-journey-small-groups

Tune My Heart

Tune my heart.
Like an old violin,
like a worn down piano,
I have been left out in all manners
of weather;
I have been left alone for far too
long.
So like a concertmaster
with a steady hand,
tune me up.
Listen and learn
the cracked keys,
the broken strings.
Memorize the forgotten intervals
that even I did not know.
And then, when we're ready,
when this creaky heart is tuned,
teach me a new song.

*Poem by
Rev. Sarah Speed*

Let us Pray

God of song and celebration, tune our hearts that we may shout 'Hosanna!' As we once more walk together through this holy time, continue to turn us toward you, so that even in the shadow of the cross and the darkness of the tomb, we may believe and trust in your resurrecting power of your love. May your Spirit give us courage and confidence to proclaim your presence in our lives, and in the world.

Amen