

**Palm Sunday 2010 Meditation
The Rev. Deacon Ann Fritschner
28 March 2010**

Palm Sunday begins the darkest time in our liturgical calendar; hypocrisy, betrayal, abandonment, confusion, even hopelessness are all a part of the sorrow that Jesus experiences prior to His death. This is also a time when we examine our consciences and acknowledge our behaviors that estrange us from Jesus. This is a very difficult time for soul-searching Christians.

So I pray that this week *especially* that you rest well, take nourishment, and find a trusted companion with whom you can share your thoughts and feelings.

Hear some of Jesus' words from the Book of John that offer us hope even though He knows what is to come:

John 14: 18-21, 25-30

I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you will also live. On that day you will know I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have kept my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.

I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you 'I am going away, and I am coming to you.'

If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs so when it does occur you may believe.

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

Rise, let us be on our way.

God be with you all as we travel from the darkness of Holy Week into the light of Easter.

Amen.

Would those participating in the reading please come forward? And would you please share your insert with your neighbor, as not everyone has one.