



Recognizing and Responding to the Presence of God

April 10, 2022

Luke 19:28-40

Connect

- Share a struggle you've had with a password before. Why does it seem like such a struggle to remember passwords we create ourselves? ☺
- When have you most felt the presence of God? Why was that moment so vivid? How did you respond?

Engage

- Read **Luke 19:28-40**. The palm parade is a traditional favorite of Christians. It is a moment of declaration, a clear turning of Jesus toward his claim of Messiahship. Clearly, everyone had a different idea about how the Messiah would be made known. Jesus' way was *not* it. In what ways does Jesus meet, or not, your own expectations of Messiah?
- When the disciples land a donkey for Jesus by simply offering the password(s): "*The Lord needs it,*" we may ask of the donkey's owner, "*How do you know who the Lord is?*" How is this decision a matter of trust? Of discernment? How do you discern important decisions in your own life? How do you know if you're doing what the Lord needs you to do?
- When asked for the parade to stop, Jesus simply replied, "*If [his followers] stopped, the stones would shout praise instead.*" What is Jesus implying in this statement? How does it connect, or not, to our practice of faith today?

Next Steps

- Don't jump from parade to party this week. Palm Sunday and Easter are deeply celebratory, but they don't hold the full meaning of such joy without the recognition of the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Join us Thursday for a special service of worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM and Friday for a fish fry and journey through the last days of Jesus' earthly life. Come any time on Friday between 5:30-7 PM to eat and join a group of 10-12 to experience each station. The full journey opens us to the full measure of what Easter's joy holds.

Pray

"We are the first to cheer, God, when we see things moving in our favor. Help us to discover your loving presence in the "lesser moments" all the same. Amen."