



April 17, 2019

THE PUZZLE OF HOLY WEEK

My four year-old grandson Julian and I have been spending hours putting puzzles together. Or trying to. We have some strategies, but no strict rules. We start by unceremoniously and a little joyfully dumping all the puzzle pieces on the floor. Then we turn them over so we can see colors and any images, and then we begin to create little clusters of related pieces. If we find straight edges we optimistically line them up. Right now we have a big puzzle that's about half-finished. It's a little beyond us, I think: this particular puzzle has many images and stories and, alas, no straight edges.

Holy Week has arrived, and it's not surprising to me that it seems to be a puzzle, too. Each piece of the story is important. Each has its own weight, connectors and loops.

The images include: Palms and cloaks, donkeys and royalty, humility and power, crowds cheering or jeering, friendship and betrayal, bullying and foot washing, questions and silences, violence and kindness, death and resurrection. These images exist side by side and are intertwined – with faith and time. (In 1969, off at boarding school, I wrote a poem trying to sort out my Easter faith, so there's evidence I've been trying to understand Holy Week for at least half a century.)

What do you think? What are your beliefs and your questions? What does your heart tell you about the mysteries?

This Holy Week, I invite you to reexamine the mysteries of our faith and tradition by attending the Maundy Thursday Service at 8:00 p.m. and the Good Friday service at 12 noon, as well as the joy-filled celebrations of the resurrection on Easter Sunday morning – at 9:00 and 11:00.

May the images you encounter this Holy Week come together in ways that surprise you – and as they do, may they deepen your faith in Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Rev. Judy Swahnberg
Associate Minister