

Waving in Praise

A Sermon preached by Reverend W. Dale Osborne

April 17, 2011 PALM SUNDAY, Binkley Baptist Church

Lectionary Texts: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21: 1-11

The reading from Matthew's gospel today is a text often associated with praise. We waved our palm leaves this morning as a symbol of historic praise for Jesus of Nazareth. To give praise to God's beloved son, to shout Hosanna to a humble and loving king is fully understandable. An act of praise is invigorating and uplifting. It reminds us of the blessings of joyous exuberance. The people who laid their cloaks and branches on the ground for Jesus on that first Palm Sunday were excited to see him ride into town. They ran ahead of him and behind him shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" Their praise, their joy, their sense of even worship was palpable. The beloved prophet, teacher and healer was making his way into town in a most peculiar way. Jesus sat on a donkey, or on the colt of a donkey, or on both according to Matthew's recollection, as he made his way into Jerusalem two thousand years ago. He was entering the holy city just as the prophet Zechariah had foretold hundreds of years earlier. His triumphal entry came just after he had healed two blind men near Jericho. The two blind men decided to follow Jesus after they regained their sight. They may have been part of the crowd watching Jesus enter the city. What a sight for their new found eyes! The sight of Jesus in their midst was worthy of branches waving in praise.

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Waving in Praise

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Lectionary Texts: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29; Matthew 21: 1-11

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