

Palm Sunday, 2010

(from the Iona community)

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey

And Peter said

And Thomas said

And Andrew said

And Judas said

Where are you going?

Who is this man?

Which of us is the greatest?

Lord is it me?

He was going on a journey and Jesus said

**Come with me**

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey

And a young man said

And a blind man said

And a lunatic said

And a leper said

What must I do?

Take pity on me!

Lord, make me clean

What do you want with us?

He was going on a journey and Jesus said

**Do you want to get better?**

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey

And a woman in the crowd said

And a woman at his side said

And a woman at the well said

And a woman on the road said

Happy the womb that bore you!

Yes it was me who touched you

Can I have some of your water?

Lord, have mercy on me

He was going on a journey and Jesus said

**I will be with you always**

He was going on a journey

He was going on a journey  
He was going on a journey  
He was going on a journey  
And John's disciples said  
And his home congregation said  
And the Pharisees said  
And the chief priests said  
Are you the one who is to come?  
Could this be the carpenter's son?  
Why does he eat with outcasts?  
From where do you get your authority?  
He was going on a journey and Jesus said

**I have come that you might have life**

He was going on a journey  
He was going on a journey  
He was going on a journey  
He was going on a journey  
And the crowd were ready to say  
And the crowd were ready to cry  
And the crowd were ready to shout  
And the crowd were ready to scream  
Hosanna  
Blessings  
Barabbas  
Crucify him

Jesus was ahead of his disciples who were filled with alarm; the people who followed behind were afraid. So, Jesus took the twelve aside and said to them

**We are going up to Jerusalem where the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the teachers of the Law. They will condemn him to death and then hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him, spit on him, and kill him; but three days later he will rise to life. Come let us go forward.**

So we are going on a journey too. Today's celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem which began as part of a weeklong pilgrimage in the 4<sup>th</sup> century is a time of many voices. We wonder and pray about what happened this week between God and the world. We are not looking for historical accuracy but about the meanings of the events. We know that the Jesus path is about hope, faith and love in God and in the world.

According to the gospels, Jesus' ministry puts him on a collision course with established authorities – the religious, social and political features of his life. This story, and our own challenge, is about how we resist or accommodate God's presence. We are the ones who

die a little or a lot when in bondage. We are the ones who seek a liberator, a redeemer in the face of injustices, a way to survive crucifixions.

One way to walk toward resurrection is to celebrate our life in faith. “The proper response to disaster is to keep loving God and our neighbor as ourselves. The proper posture is to raise our heads. (Palm Sunday).

Another way is to pray and anoint, listen and share compassion and God’s strength for all circumstances. (Tuesday night)

Another way is to gather as friends, to declare our love, that all are precious, to be each other’s servants and servants of the world’s needs. (Maundy Thursday)

The hard way is to walk into the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil because God is there too. Many of us have found life beyond death. (Good Friday)

The long way is telling the saving story from Israel to us and gathering our commitments to God and the community of faith. (Easter Vigil)

It would be easier not to go on this journey but it would not be faithful. Come let us go forward.

Amen+

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