

This week our Lenten Journey travels the road into Jerusalem alongside Jesus as we engage in dialogue with [Mark 11:1-11](#). We see Jesus, coming in symbolic expressions of both humility and defiance. While his defiance stood against the oppression of the poor and marginalized, telling truth to power, the humility shown by Jesus was also defiant. The people celebrated his arrival and cried out to him for help. They expected a violent overthrowing of empire, what they got was the promise that love was the only true way to achieve the peace that was sought. A peace that we have yet to find in a world ruled by love because we have not accomplished it. Jesus believed that a world at peace and in love, love and abundant life for all was possible and that there were no excuses to accept anything else. He was willing to face the violence of the Roman empire and the betrayal of the same people who cheered him on, even that of his friends and family, to show us how to make the world the paradise that is God's dream for us. He was willing to suffer rejection, persecution, and execution to stand up for love.

This passage, and the story of our Biblical narrative poses uncomfortable questions for us in our modern context:

- What does it take for humans to live for love instead of for fear, to see a call to change as opportunity as opposed to loss?
- What would you be willing to let go of to see a world without war, discrimination, hunger, and poverty?
- What will it take for us to realise that we can change systems that keep us from living with respect in creation for this Earth and for all who live here, because these systems were made by us humans?
- How can we show our trust that the Spirit is alive and well in the world and that we can express her call to us faithfully?
- What are we willing to let go of?
 - Thinking that being right is more important than doing right?
 - Traditions that comfort some but hurt many others?
 - Ways of living that harm the Earth and disadvantage specific people?
- What is the best way to celebrate the gift that we have in the ability to choose?

It's a journey that challenges and enlivens us, I look forward to continuing it this week with you all.

Peace and hope,

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