

Meditation:

Setting Forth Together~ Meister Eckhart

“Let's be clear about one thing: you are your own best teacher. I can only tell you what I know, but you'll need to discover it for yourself, so don't expect me to tell you what to think or how to live.

I'll share with you the truth I've found: that life is full of a darkness that can enlighten you in its own way; there's a thread there to guide you, but to find it, you'll need to look within yourself.

When you do, seek the light that shines out of the darkness, and be radiant for those who long for hope to brighten their journey, setting forth together on what you'll discover is a wayless way.”

Let's enter these familiar words of Matthew's gospel that describe Jesus' pilgrimage to Jerusalem, listening for what speaks to your hearts in THIS moment, your own “wayless way” pilgrimage to the inner Jerusalem of transformation.

Matthew 21:1-6, 8-11

1 *When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,*

2 *saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me.*

3 *If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."*

4 *This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying,*

5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

6 The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them;

8 A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

10 When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"

11 The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Can we see this not as a story from history, but a story very much alive in today's event?. **The Prophet Jesus...** Way back in February, when Lent began, I shared how my heart has been stirred by reading the ancient passages of psalms and the prophets, and here is how Richard Rohr reminds us of the role of those prophets—hint: they were not fortune tellers foretelling the future:

Besides being truth tellers, they were radical change agents, messengers of divine revelation, teachers of a moral alternative, and deconstructors of every prevailing order...whose job is to hold Israel maddeningly honest, and to stop them from relying on arms, money, lies, and power to keep themselves safe and in control.

"Israel" here is not only the Jewish peoples of history, or even the modern nations who rely on arms, money, lies and power. It is all of us who profess to live in a covenant relationship with the Holy One, with the Source of Love and Life, with the I Am. So where is this prophet Jesus leading us today?

In 2006, John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg published ***The Last Week: A Day-by-Day Account of Jesus's Final Week in Jerusalem***. They write from combined historic, theologic, and mythopoetic perspectives about the familiar

scripture passages that describe Jesus entering the city of Jerusalem as Passover approached, just as many pilgrims did each year.

“Two processions entered Jerusalem on a spring day in the year 30... One was a peasant procession, the other an imperial procession. From the east, Jesus rode a donkey down the Mouth of Olives, cheered by his followers. . . On the opposite side of the city, from the west, Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Idumea, Judea, and Samaria, entered Jerusalem at the head of a column of imperial calvary and soldiers. . . Jesus’s procession proclaimed the kingdom of God; Pilate’s proclaimed the power of empire.”

Which procession are we in? As we enter the gates of Jerusalem, with Jesus on the colt, and the crowds singing Hosanna waving palm branches to the “king and conqueror,” what are our expectations and understandings of this historic Jesus, and the eternal Christ we carry within? What are we called to in light of the systems of domination, violence and suffering alive right now? If we are pilgrims on our own journey to Jerusalem, how does that pilgrimage lead us beyond comfortable platitudes of peace and love into living AS peace, AS love? How does this king arriving on a colt call us to break the chains of domination and violence?

From ***Easter Revolutionary: THE LONG GAME APPROACH TO TOPPLING EMPIRE***

by Rev Ogun Holder (Spirituality and Health Mar/April 2025 and Apr 13)

“In Jesus’ time and place, Empire was Rome. It was also segments of the local establishment—royalty, religious, commercial—who, more than likely in the name of self-preservation, propped up Empire. During his brief ministry, Jesus challenged the fearful self-serving enablers of Empire and, by extension, Empire itself. He continually disrupted the status quo, and

threatened the illusion of peaceful coexistence between the oppressor and the oppressed....

Jesus challenged Empire with a message of love, compassion, community, hope, generosity, and humility—qualities that Empire will forever oppose. They are paths to equity and tools to topple Empire which needs enmity, cruelty, division, despair, greed, and narcissism to survive.”

Our procession ALWAYS invites us to follow the path of ONENESS— the path of love, compassion, community, hope, generosity, and humility to the kingdom of God, the kin-dom of our own species, and the entirety of creation.

What would happen if we truly stayed awake to that procession that awakens us to the truth of Oneness? How would our procession unfold if we saw the gift and meaning of the story of Jesus as the reminder that the HOLY ONE *is* PRESENCE, and so is present with us in every moment, in every circumstance, in every being, in every blessing that rips the illusion of separation from our eyes, our hands, our hearts? This is the blessing of living into our vision and mission as a beloved community, coming together imperfectly, perhaps, but trusting the Oneness of our Christ-selves.

The narrative of Jesus, and the people who longed for a hero to throw off the oppression of injustice, greed and violence is *not only* history. We long now for that same liberation. And in that longing, we are called to join the procession toward the kin-dom of Love and justice. May we enter the wayless way together, and in our own lives, our own spheres, awaken LOVE in all we encounter.

And so it is. Amen.