

Palm Sunday April 5th 2020

Eternal God, be here with us through the strength and purpose of the Holy Spirit.

Touch our souls with comfort and calmness.

Help us to look forward with confidence and assurance, trusting O God, in your wisdom and love. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Read "See You in the Morning" by John Wayne Schlatter from Chicken Soup for the Soul Vol 2. Pg. 165

"When I die, give what is left of me to children.

If you need to cry, cry for your brothers walking beside you.

Put your arms around anyone and give them what you need to give to me.

I want to leave you with something, something better than words or sounds.

Look for me in the people I have known and loved.

And if you cannot live without me, then let me live in your eyes, your mind, and your acts of kindness.

You can love me most by letting hands touch hands and letting go of children that need to be free.

Love does not die, people do.

So when all that is left of me is love....

Give me away..."

There is so much that could be said this morning as we read Matthew's account of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. He must have been scared, at times, on his journey to Jerusalem. Many of us are scared right now with the reality of illness and death swirling within our communities, this nation, and the world. Jesus knew that his journey was something that had to be. We will journey with him this week. Jesus knew what he would be leaving behind. When I read this story, I thought a lot about the poem and the context in which it

was written. And I thought; 'What if Jesus wrote a similar poem?' Maybe it would go something like this:

When I die, give what is left of me to my children. My words and the stories of all that God accomplished through me.

If you need to cry, cry for your sisters and brothers walking beside you. Especially those who struggle mightily when the world seems to be crumbling around them.

Put your arms around everyone and give them what you need to give to me.

I am leaving you with something, something more than just my words as important as they will be in times of distress.

Look for me in those who follow in my footsteps.

And since you cannot live without me, let me live on in your eyes, your thoughts, your hands, and your acts of kindness.

You can love me most by loving God and each other.

Love never dies, people do.

So, when all that is left of me is Love,

Give me away...

Join us this week as we journey with Jesus, to and through his death on the cross, and finally to experience the joy of his Resurrection on Easter.