

## 04-17-19 Wednesday Musing

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Well haven't we had an eventful week so far.... And more is yet to come... Our week started triumphantly as we celebrated Jesus' entry into Jerusalem... then came the sadness. We began on Sunday to reminisce about the Passion that was about to take place in the life of our Savior... "Our day started with the parade of honor in which the disciples laid down their cloaks and palm branches for Jesus entry into Jerusalem... and the week will end with the parade of shame... in which the crowd mocks Jesus as He travels the road to His execution... where He lays down His life for the world!" (quote from my Bethel UMC Pastor, Rev. Garrett Rea) No doubt about it... it's a passion filled week!

And then we wake up on Monday to reports of the tremendous fire at the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris... such a beautiful place... not to mention the historical value of the 856 year old building... I mean, if walls could talk... there would be quite a few stories to tell, I'm sure. Such a heartbreaking event... but that doesn't have to be the end of the story for the Notre Dame Cathedral... in fact, I very much doubt that it will be... they will rebuild... and it will once again display magnificent beauty... perhaps... it will be even more glorious than it was before.

Does this remind you of anything? ... Does that sound like a familiar story? Just as the sin of this world tries to burn down our lives around us... time and time again... Jesus is right there to take our hand in His nail scared ones... and lift us back to our feet. Genesis tells of Joseph... son of Jacob and Rachel... you, I'm sure, are familiar with the story... His brothers were jealous and sold him into slavery... Thereafter they painted goat's blood on his coat and returned it to their father, convincing Jacob that his precious son was dead. Joseph's life took many turns up and down along it's path ultimately leading him to become the Vizier. Joseph, upon interpreting Pharaoh's dream, predicted an oncoming seven-year famine following a seven-year abundance. During the time of famine Joseph's brothers, sent by his father, came to purchase food supplies from Pharaoh's stores. In the end the family was reunited... and Joseph in his wisdom told his brothers... as recorded in Genesis 50:20-21 -  
"20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them."

Just as the brothers meant evil toward Joseph... so did the crowds mean evil toward Jesus... but God's plan cannot be thwarted ... The Jewish leaders thought that if they put Jesus to death their problem would come to an end... little did they understand that the evil that they participated in would be spun to suit God's plan perfectly.

So no matter where you find yourself in life... whether triumphantly rising to new heights... or in a place of darkness with your world burning around you... or perhaps just walking in the parade looking to the left and to the right...remember to keep your eyes turned to the One who is always in control... the One who can spin the world on a dime... the omnipotent... omniscient... omnipresent One... the Trinity Three-in-One... to whom go the glory and the honor forever... Amen.

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As we turn to the Lord in prayer this week, let us not forget to pray for all of those who grace the doors of a church this Sunday... that they may be blessed beyond the walls of the church, and in turn be a blessing to others. We know that many churches will be filled beyond their normal attendance, as those who come at Christmas and Easter show up... Pray that God touch their hearts with a hunger for His Word.

Let us also lift in prayer: Millie Fraser, Frances Morgan, Selma Simpson, Jeanne Williams, Mary Jane Pettigrew, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, and friends: Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, Elizabeth Woodlief—mother of Peggy Johnson, Family of Dolly Watson

The sermon title this week will be "The Resurrected Face of Jesus" and the Scripture will be taken from Luke 24:13-35.

Happening this week... and beyond...

- Maundy Thursday Service - April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Bray Fellowship Hall
- Easter Sunrise Service - April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 am on the lawn in front of the office (or in the sanctuary in case of rainy weather).
- Easter Worship Service with Special Music - April 21<sup>st</sup> @ 10:30 am
- Supper Club - May 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm... destination to be announced...
- Spaghetti Supper with special music by 'The Cornpickers', dinner starting at 5pm - 7pm

Halleluiah! He has Risen Indeed!

Joan 😊

