

Message from Amy

*“The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.” (Habakkuk 2:20)*

There are a number of ways to respectfully get the attention of a noisy crowd. Civic leaders bang a gavel. A dinner host taps a spoon on a glass. A business leader clears his or her throat.

In scout meetings, the way to get people to be quiet and pay attention is to hold two fingers in the air. It starts with one person. Another scout leader or a parent notices, and does likewise. As more parents and scout leaders catch on, more and more hands are raised, and eventually the entire room grows silent and watchful.

Fingers are thrust into the air in all sorts of ways. Some leaders and parents hold their fingers bent a little, like droopy bunny ears. Others hold them stiffly together, as if taking an oath. Some spread their fingers wide, as if making a peace sign, or for another generation, the sign of victory.

However the fingers are raised, they cause a hush to fall across a crowded, boisterous room. Giggles fall silent, fussing ceases, eyes turn to the leader, and ears are opened to what he or she has to say.

This is what happens during Holy Week. When the waving palms are thrust into the air, we begin our earnest anticipation for what happens next. We make a special effort to cease our fussing, to make our lives a little more quiet, to begin a hushed watchfulness of the events of the week. We turn our eyes to our leader, Jesus, and open our ears for the words he will speak.

If we are silent and attentive, we can hear Jesus utter some of the most profound wisdom of all he said. We will hear the words that comfort us during times of loss (*“in my Father’s house are many rooms...”*), and those words from the table that we know so well (*“This is my body, given for you...”*). We will hear his prayer in the garden of Gethsemane (*“...not as I will, but as thou wilt.”*), and his prayers from the cross (*“...Father, forgive them, for they know not what they are doing.”*). We will witness his betrayal, and his denial, the empty tomb, and then ultimately, the risen Christ.

Remembering the raised palm fronds of Sunday’s service, may we raise our spirits to this Holy Week. Let each of us strive to quiet what we can in our boisterous lives. Let each of us be watchful and attentive to the workings of God. Whether we go through this week in the manner of taking an oath or in the hope for peace, may each of us anticipate the ultimate victory of Easter Sunday.

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