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St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church
Palm Sunday
April 9, 2017
Text: Philippians 2:5-11

“He humbled himself”

*“And being found in human form,
He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-
Even death on a cross.”*

Today, the Church remembers a week deemed “holy”. A week that shows us the love of God in action.

The Divine had come down to earth clothed in ordinary human likeness with sinews, and skin, and bone and blood and with humility. Even his earthly beginning flew under the radar as we say today, having been born in a borrowed stable in a backwater town and placed in a feeding trough to sleep. Jesus walked among us all, with the poor and the learned, the oppressed and those better well off. He came not showboating his power or knowledge or putting on airs but giving God the glory for the things God had done through him. He taught all who would listen to do the same.

Would we had done the same if we were he? Would we have tooted our own horns calling attention to ourselves? Called out the media if it had existed? To whom would the glory go-to ourselves or to the One who created the heaven s and earth? Does humility, true humility, even exist today?

The Son of God rode into the city of Jerusalem, not on a fine stallion but on a borrowed donkey and her colt while ‘Hosannas’ rang throughout the streets. He did not buy into the accolades of the day but continued to allow himself to be emptied, to step further into humility and into the role of servant as he washed the feet of his friends knowing all the while that he would be betrayed.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul-that God made man humbled himself once more becoming obedient to the point of death! This was his ultimate sacrifice. This was his ultimate act of love. Executed on that gruesome instrument of death reserved for common criminals.

His throne was not made of gold and precious jewels but of wood. His person not clothed with fine silk but naked he hung until he died.

It was on the cross at Calvary that he himself was glorified. Glorified, “so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

The week has begun and it is holy. Come, spare a little time with the Christ. Join him in the week’s journey of life and of death through the Word, in Sacrament, in ritual, and ponder anew what humility and obedience mean to you and the world.

Know that the story has not ended today nor will it end with an empty tomb next week. His glory continues to reveal itself even now.