

Palm Sunday 2020

May only God's Word Be Spoken and only God's Word Heard. Amen.

On the Eve of my 10th Easter my great grandparents gave me a vanity set....a comb , brush, and a mirror that matched. Every woman on my maternal side received one at that age usually as a gentle nudge to take more care with personal grooming. In my case it felt like a lost cause since I was more interested in what the mirror could do than taming my thick Florida hair with a soft bristled hairbrush. With a hand-held mirror I could always see myself, see others around corners, and even on occasion set things on fire with just the right angle toward the sun. That particular mirror was the first time I recall really noticing myself, learning my own features and wondering out loud if that was really me. When my friends and I would look at our reflections it always struck me as odd that they would look just like themselves but maintain that they weren't looking at themselves. "Who is this stranger?" they asked uncertainly. I felt the very same way. They really did look like their reflection but I could not acknowledge my own. We recognize others but we cannot always truly recognize ourselves.

I thought about that vanity set the first time I went to Versailles. There is an extensive and famous hall of mirrors and wherever you go in that long hall there you are again and again and again. You cannot escape yourself. Yet, as you look at your reflection you are caught off guard by the angle of repose. Depending upon the crowd, there are hundreds of other faces there too.... faces of the "other" now co-mingling with your own. It forces you to take notice of what no doubt had been true all along. We are all in this life together; a life Jesus was not afraid to enter fully into. It is a life worth living. It is a life worthy dying and rising again for.

We have now entered a sacred time of reflection that the church has named a holy week. Every liturgical act in the coming days is designed

to make us see in ourselves what God has seen all along. Despite our limitations, indeed our outrageous sins and offenses individually and collectively, sometimes even those sins of omission or commission which are powerfully ordinary, despite all of this..... The actions of God in Christ this very day tell us that we are so very loved....so loved that God gave us what was most valuable to God....that which he loved most.....we are asked to take the risk of letting our image and likeness be seen in his from those moments of deepest loss and despair and betrayal to those moments of emptiness, hopelessness and nothingness

and then when we thought we couldn't stand it anymore....an illumination so bright that the glass itself shatters and we become stronger and whole once again in the resurrection light. Our broken pieces like a shattered mirror whole in God.

We never it seems are content with the image that is reflected in mirrors near and far...often we don't recognize ourselves or feel at best as if we are looking at a familiar stranger.

But this week is more about the One who is looking at us.

The one who is looking for us.

...who is living within us

and who can transform us.....

who can resurrect us from all that would harm us...all those millions of fragments

so the next time you are looking in a mirror...worry not about what you don't see and instead beg to see what God see's....you might be surprised....you might be very surprised.

Rev. Tambria E. Lee

