

A Message during Holy Week from the BNS President.

This week, everyone is getting ready for Easter. For some, that means getting away from it all for four days, visiting family or taking a mini trip, or attending a sporting event with the grandkids. But for others, holy week is a time to absorb the story of servanthood, humiliation, triumph and glory. Seriously, all those emotions are in our sacred story!

This year, I'm stuck on humility. We listen, as Jesus wraps a towel around his waist and washes the feet of those he has been teaching and travelling along his unfolding ministry. The timeless lessons of servant leadership, invite deep questions for our own journeys in Christian faith. It seems to me that although Jesus washes feet, goes out of his way to heal, and offers forgiveness even as he relinquishes his own life, he also stands for what is important. I would not call the authority before Pilate humility, exactly. He does not stand as servant before his accusers. He doesn't fight back with words or violence. He stands firm for what he believes, and we experience a glimpse of the unfolding reign of God. By refusing to respond with violence and defensiveness, the importance of his timeless message is remembered.

That message of love and grace and forgiveness is the stuff of new life. Within the story, we are reminded of the hope humanity is capable of. Intrinsic to the resurrection story, hope remains significant even these thousands of years later.

Ideas and possibility outlive the death of individuals. We know that as we celebrate eternal life, experienced through the Christ of faith, and witnessed by those who carry that story, we hold a part of that humility and courage in our beings.

May your holy week be filled with examples of the story we carry so deeply in our hearts, blessed people of the Bermuda Nova Scotia Region. Thank you for your ministries, and for holding the story close in these difficult times.

In Faith,

Rev Donna Tourneur