



## ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sermon 3/20/16

Here we are – the start of Holy Week and what I have come to think of as the most dramatic, awful and awe-inspiring moments for anyone who talks about, professes or believes they have faith.

In this week we are surrounded by the very worst of human behavior – we are humanity at our most awful.

We are fickle – we shout and cheer and get excited without understanding. We clamor about a messiah and then abandon him.

We have no follow through, no strength of commitment, no depth to our faith.

We allow a mob mentality to guide our behavior.

We allow a few voices to represent us and make decisions for us.

We bow or acquiesce to people and laws and a faith tradition that is cruel, judgmental and willing to sacrifice lives with the goal of letting us feel in control and secure.

We want to be Gods, not God in God's mystery and eternal love.

Oh we are a vain, confused, and erratic people.

In this week we walk through it all. Our poor behavior and Jesus's most amazing behavior.

I say – you want to know Jesus and what would Jesus do? Then stick to him like a burr this week.

Stick to Him, follow him, pray with him, pay attention to what he says and does.

Do the scripture readings for this Holy Week.

Come listen to him and watch him on Maundy Thursday – the mandate Thursday when he tells us all what he wishes from each of us.

Come watch with him in the Garden of Gethsemane and pray for your own patience and courage to stay present with Jesus.

Come hear the prayers of Jesus dying on the cross and take the steps as he walks to the site of his crucifixion.

In this week we can learn more about Jesus and what he offered to us than any other time in our lives or in the rest of the year.

Here Jesus is put to the test. Here he is refined in the fire both as a human being and as God's son. Here he pulls together everything he has been saying and teaching. Here he shows it to us step by step.

Will he exert his power and authority? Yes, but not the way we think he should.

Will he serve as a servant? Will he be humble and take mistreatment of lies and false accusations?

Will he pray for himself and for us?

Will he continue to love and forgive? Will he continue to love and forgive.....forever and ever.

Stick to him like and burr and learn all that matters for our life on earth and ever after.

Thanks be to God.