

## GOD IS KING - THE PARADOX OF PALM SUNDAY

Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday puts each of us in the middle of a paradox. On the one hand, we are filled with joy as Jesus enters Jerusalem with throngs of people waving palms and rejoicing. The promised Saviour has finally come! The Messiah is here! Redemption is at hand! But then, on the other hand, we turn towards the sorrowful narrative of our Lord's rejection, suffering, and death - with his passion. It is a solemn and quiet moment of contemplation. How can a day of triumph be filled with so much joy and so much sorrow at the same time? The answer is because, what seems to be Jesus' defeat is actually his victory, the victory of everlasting love. "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). This is what Jesus taught, and what he did in his passion, to prove beyond the shadow of doubt that his love for us has no limits. The angels sang "Glory to God in the Highest" when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and now the people sing, "Hosanna in the Highest" as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Both entrances were motivated by God's love, the same love that led him to be obedient to the Father even to the point of death, to reverse the disobedience of Adam, pay the price of our sins, and rescue fallen humankind from hopelessness and injustice. So, we have solved this paradox. The source of our sorrow is sin, our sins, the cause of Jesus' suffering. But the source of our joy is Jesus' love, the very reason He was willing to suffer, and the very power that, through his sacrifice on the cross, conquers our sins. As Christians we can always live inside the paradox of Palm Sunday and always find joy, the joy of Jesus' limitless love, even amidst the profoundest of sorrows.

God bless,  
Deacon John