

## Saturday prior to Palm Sunday

**Theme:** Heart

**Centering Thought:** raised with Christ – the rocks would sing - trees of the field clap their hands

### Scriptures:

“For you shall go out in joy and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” Isaiah 55: 12

“I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out.” Luke 19: 40

“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, no on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.” Colossians 3: 1 - 4

### Reflection and Questions

God seeks to restore us and to restore relationships among the people created in God’s image. God’s restorative word is showered down upon us. This word brings healing and hope. This restorative word helps us to keep our joy even in the midst the hardest of times. How does God’s restorative mercy show itself in your life? Where do you need to sit down and rest awhile so that you might allow yourself to be awash in God’s restoration?

God desires for us to be joy filled. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem, some religious authorities wanted Jesus to silence the crowd. But the desire for joy, the intention of joy, is sown into God’s very creation. If the people created in God’s image cannot find it, cannot allow it, God creation has the ability to shout and to clap. Such is the nature of a God who has a love that is endless. This love works in all our lives to help restore the joy, the abundance, the life God intends for all God’s children.

Just as your physical heart needs a balanced diet to remain healthy, so it is with your spiritual heart. Your spiritual heart requires a healthy diet in order for you to know the love, grace, forgiveness, wonder and joy of God.

1. Does the condition of your heart, help you to experience God?
2. Where do you normally set your heart?
3. How does the condition of your heart hinder you in experiencing the joy of the God who is present?
4. Are there spiritual habits in which you could engage that would help cultivate your heart for God?
5. What do you treasure that is in competition with building a greater relationship with God?
6. What do you need to help you set your heart on things above?

**Prayer.** *Almighty God, your son our Savior is glorious, gracious, marvelous, and precious to me. I desperately want the world to know that Jesus is not only my Savior but also the Savior of all people. Oh Lord, I need your wisdom. Help me to learn how to best communicate your story of salvation and help people come to their own decisions to accept Jesus and to follow him and to become his disciple. Help me to have the courage not to remain silent about your gift of your Son to speak and witness to him in every situation in which I find myself. Help me to never keep my spoken admiration and thankfulness silent, help me to never withhold your good news because I am afraid of what others may think of me. This I pray in Christ’ name. Amen.*