

Musical Meditation for April 5

Palm Sunday

Bible Reading - Matthew 26:26-35

Music Selection: "Would I Have Answered When You Called (hymn #2137, tune KINGSFOLD)

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1. Would I have answered when you called, "Come follow, follow me"? Would I at once have left behind, both work and family? Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?
2. Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee, on roads unknown by ways untried, beyond security? Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew, where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?
3. Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried, "Crucify!", when on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky? Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone, a dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?
4. O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways, nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise. I only pray that when you call "Come, follow, follow me!", you'll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.

Thoughts

Pastor Carl made a provocative middle hymn selection for Palm Sunday in #2137, "Would I Have Answered When You Called?", hymn #2137 -- it may be new to you! It is ironic that the same English folk tune, "Kingsfold", is also used for the Christmas carol, "O Sing a Song of Bethlehem", hymn #308. This is also relevant to Palm Sunday as it provides a synopsis of Jesus' life. The focus of hymn #2137 is very different, however, and provides opportunity for challenging personal introspection on how committed we are to truly follow Jesus. Pastor Carl's sermon (coming to you via a video mini-service on the church's Facebook page!) topic is "Following Polls", which alludes to the acclaim of the masses when they thought Jesus was coming as a physical liberator. Their "vote" changed when they found this not to be the case. They didn't understand, or didn't care, that Jesus' kingdom was heavenly! Their concerns were with their physical world. The words of the hymn address this in terms we can relate to today! How are we responding to Jesus's Call?

For our prayers, consider asking for enlightenment how we can best respond to Jesus' Call. We should also continue to pray for recovery of the increasing numbers of people worldwide affected by the coronavirus, with appreciation and support for the courageous workers who are selflessly laboring, at personal risk, to heal the sick and keep our society functioning, ensuring that basic needs for food and shelter are met on a continuing basis. And finally, taking our personal concerns to God.