

Holy Week
March 13, 2008

I came across a story that recently made me chuckle, and think about faith as well. It goes like this:

A man was once bothered with continual ringing in his ears, bulging eyes and a flushed face. Over a period of three years, he went from doctor to doctor to find out what was wrong. One took out his tonsils, one his appendix, and another pulled all his teeth. He even tried the goat gland treatment in Switzerland, all to no avail. Finally, one doctor told him there was no hope. He had six months to live.

The poor fellow quit his job, sold all his belongings and decided to live it up in the time he had left. He went to his tailor and ordered several suits and shirts. The tailor measured his neck and wrote down 16. The man corrected him: The tailor measured again: 16. But the man insisted that he'd always worn a size 15.

"Well, all right," said the tailor, "but don't come back here complaining to me if you have ringing ears, bulging eyes and a flushed face!"

The poor man in the story wandered down many roads trying to solve his medical problem. Unfortunately, his issue wasn't medical. It was from the clothes he was wearing.

This story prompted me to start thinking about the journey of faith we make. How many avenues do we travel, looking for hope, peace and fulfillment, when all along Jesus is inviting us to experience a love from God that can make us whole?

I don't know about you, but I have attempted to walk down several avenues. Some of those avenues have been named "the search for success", "concern about my reputation," "wanting to be liked", "overeating". I am sure I could think of others as well. But the bottom line is that none of these avenues has brought peace to my life. Yet what has brought peace and what is bringing a sense of wholeness is knowing that I am loved by God.

My hope and prayer is that as you look at your life and the avenues you have traveled down, that you will come to the conclusion that the road you really want to be on is the one that brings you closer to God and God's love.

This weekend marks the beginning of what we call Holy Week. It is when we remember and walk with Jesus during the last week of his life. From the joy and celebration of Palm Sunday, through the hurt and betrayal of Maundy Thursday, to the sadness and grief of Good Friday to the hopeful anticipation of Holy Saturday to the great Joy of Easter Resurrection.

This weekend marks the beginning of a holy time. It is a time for us to pause, to reflect, and to be shaped by a story that can give us hope and meaning.

Come worship with us throughout Holy Week and allow this time to help you find a path marked by deep faith in Christ.

In the Hope Jesus offers us,

Rev. Scott Carlson

The Mission of Sun Prairie United Methodist Church is to invite and welcome people to be committed and compassionate followers of Jesus Christ through worship, through spiritual growth, through fellowship and through service to others.