

We are just about to enter Holy Week as we approach and anticipate Easter. And it is good to remember that Easter is the high point of an entire week. When we look at Holy Week only as a series of Sundays, we get Jesus triumphantly coming into town on Palm Sunday and then resurrecting and becoming the first fruit of God's new Creation and Kingdom the next Sunday. To get the power of the story, we have to remember the days in between.

It's in those we get the drama that relates to our lives so well. Not to bring the life of Christ down too much, but who among us doesn't know the feeling and exhilaration of high points only to have them dashed by the low points. Jesus rides in with the palms and shouts of joy. He is well received and exalted as a king. But it doesn't last. Just days later, the people's voices have turned to curses and even Jesus' friends have turned against him. By the end of the week, he has been executed and buried.

That is our life too. It goes in cycles. It's the life of our world. Fall gives way to winter which gives way to spring. It's the life of the church too. Our church grows and flourishes; it struggles and stumbles; it finds hope again in new life. That is the story of Easter. The high hopes of Palm Sunday give way to Good Friday which gives way to Easter. Life gives way to death which gives way to new life.

The triumphs we have are our Palm Sundays. The struggles we live in are the in between days—the Good Fridays. And the resurrections and newness we live and hope for are our Easters. They are all in our lives and in the life of our church. And that means they are in the day-to-day and spiritual life of the church; and part of those are in the life of our finances.

If you'd like to be a part of our church's Easter and our church's hope for renewed life with your giving, this is one of those times of year when we take up a special offering for that purpose. We will have Easter envelopes available on Easter Sunday for worship and we invite you to share in your own hope for Catalina through your giving this Easter.

In your life, in our church's life, in our world's life, may this Easter be a sign of hope and promise of new life for each and all of us wherever we find ourselves. May Easter be a blessing not only for our life in Christ but in each of our lives wherever we are in our own cycles. May Christ's Easter always remind us that God can break through with hope and surprise—where we can't yet see it.