

Monday Quotes



Grain

“I am responsible for the house I did not build, but in which I live.” –Dr. Dorothee Solle

Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

Field

⁹Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³They shouted back, “Crucify him!” ¹⁴Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Mark 15:9-15

Thoughts

“Sometimes people mob.” That disturbing statement about human beings made by two psychologists, Maureen Duffy and Len Sperry, comes to mind when reflecting on Palm Sunday’s readings. Jesus experienced the chaos and anger of a mob, fueled by institutional authorities. His good news about God’s active presence in the world had wreaked havoc on oppressive systems that were embraced as normal.

Many who allowed or encouraged the release of Barabbas held a static view of what was possible with God and who could have a voice. To maintain and exercise that view, Jesus was executed. The plan was to disempower him and erase his history. That worked for the crowd because sometimes people mob to protect a system. Or, we passively accept injustice. But Jesus offered another way.

Holy Week leads us to asking how God is in solidarity with our suffering and that of others, and to examining our own participation in injustice. In addition, we ask where there are new sparks of hope and possibilities. Where is God working in the midst of suffering?

The dreadful increase in attacks against Asian Americans, and recently, Asian American women in Atlanta, Georgia, brings to light the history of under-reported violence against an entire group of people. We also find crowds standing in solidarity, wanting more truth to be named and demanding that no one render Asian Americans as invisible or acceptable scapegoats.

God is at work in our world. Let us renew our advocacy efforts with hope, and not settle for oppression just because it has been normalized. May grace guide us in remembering that there is another way. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy