

**A Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew
January 19, 7:00 p.m. in Room 6 and Zoom**

WEEK THIRTEEN – “An Anti-Triumphal Entry” (Matthew 21:1-17)

Having announced that he must go to Jerusalem to die and having journeyed from Galilee into Judea, Jesus now enters Jerusalem to challenge the powers that be and announce the coming of God’s kingdom.

1. What does “separation of church and state” mean to you? What does it mean in your own life? What does it mean in your community? Your church? The way our nation is governed? Is this even possible?
2. What is your “perfect world” vision for the way public life is to be carried out? How do we live with others who are “diverse in culture, nation, race” as our song in Chalice Hymnal #485 proclaims? (That’s just an illustration for the saying, don’t feel like you have to get a hymnal and read the words.)
3. What does “Palm Sunday” mean to you? What is your favorite part of our Palm Sunday service that’s held a week before Easter?
4. If you were to design a parade that reflects our values as Christians, what would it look like? What kind of floats would you have? What songs would your marching bands play? Who would you want to be the grand marshal?
5. What is the significance of the donkey and the colt that Jesus sat upon (which begs the question, “which one did he sit on?”) and how does that highlight the difference between Earth’s kingdoms and God’s reign?
6. Why do you think Jesus chose the temple as the first place to visit upon his entry into Jerusalem? Did he make any friends there? Enemies?
7. If you were one of his disciples during these events, what would you be thinking at the end of the day? Would you be excited and pumped-up about what might happen next? Would you feel nervous? Frightened?