

Palm Sunday in Modern Israel



Even all these years later, the Palm Sunday procession is still re-enacted every year over the path which the Lord rode when He was on earth. You could be there someday. Imagine yourself in the little town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. There are thousands of other pilgrims there ready to proclaim that Jesus is King. You all march in happy procession down the hill, proclaiming as they did two thousand years ago "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" One thing that is different this time is that there are people from all over the world proclaiming Jesus as King in all different languages. Even if all you can understand is English, you can hear that everyone is rejoicing and saying "Hosanna!"

People spread their garments in the road just as they did for the Lord, and they carry all kinds of "palm branches" which were made by the people of their churches somewhere far away in the world. There are all sorts of "branches," some looking like tree branches, others more like colorful banners, but each representing what the people of some land imagine to be a triumphant symbol of His kingship. What sort of branch could you make and carry to Palestine to lay on the road?

As you approach Jerusalem, the road from the Mount of Olives reaches the valley and starts to rise up toward the gate which Jesus passed through. The road is narrow now, with houses on each side. The people of those houses are out on their steps cheering and waving as thousands of you pass. Their cheers mingle with the hymns people in the procession are singing in every language and every rhythm of the world. You come through the gate into Jerusalem and the crowd breaks up into many parties dancing and celebrating the coming of the Lord.

Maybe someday you will be able to join this happy throng. For now you can recreate some of the spirit by designing your own happy "palm branch" or banner. Make it express your own joy at the

Lord's reign over the world. You can have a procession in your home or neighborhood, with the sure knowledge that the Lord is there wherever you are in the world and will become King of every heart which invites Him in.

Written by Nina Kline based on the experiences of her daughter, Rebekah Kline who took the pictures.

