

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Putin, Trump, Trudeau, Merkel, Macron, Modi, Macri. These are the names of a few of the world leaders who gathered this past week for the G-20 Summit. (Sing) They've got the whole world in their hands, they've got the whole wide world in their hands, they've got the whole world in their hands, they've got the whole world in their hands. They've got the future of the planet in their hands etc. although there is one among them who is an old fossil fueling the planet's demise.

Throughout the past week we have heard stories of leaders with power and prestige strutting their stuff, showing the world "who's in charge", The future of the planet rests with them. But we have just heard about another 'leader' in the reading from the prophet Zechariah

See, your king shall come to you;

a just savior is he,

meek, and riding on an ass,

on a colt, the foal of an ass

Can you imagine any of the G-20 leaders as "meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass." Can you imagine Vladimir Putin or Donald Trump as "meek, and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass"?

Can you imagine any of our world leaders (some in particular) as "meek": that is "having or showing a quiet and gentle nature: not wanting to fight or argue with other people.

Meekness, gentleness, tenderness. These are not qualities that will win wars, and make for profit and gain.

But those of us who call ourselves Christian, say that these are the qualities of our "leader", Jesus Christ. When you heard the reading from Zechariah, I hope you thought of Palm Sunday. In the gospel that day, there is specific allusion made to this passage from Zechariah.

Your savior comes, meek and riding on an ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass. In his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, he is recognized as the one who comes as God's representative to bring mercy, peace, and reconciliation to the world. But of course, the world is invested in power and might, and this "meek and humble of heart" leader is crucified. He gives his life so that we may have life and an example of how we are to live.

It's not easy following this leader. To be a follower of Jesus asks us to be like he was, "meek and humble of heart". He asks us as we heard last week "to take up our cross", to lose our lives. Pope Francis calls for a "revolution of tenderness" as he follows the lead of Jesus. How can we possibly live in this world the way in which Jesus, our leader and Lord asks us? How can we get ahead, achieve success, fulfillment, if we don't put ourselves, our needs, wants, desires above those of the "other".

We are here today because we have heard the call of this leader and want to follow him, whatever the cost. The good thing is that he tells us we are not alone. He is there with us.

Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Jesus invites us to "unburden" ourselves, trust in him and hand ourselves over to him as leader, lord, savior, friend. He wants to be there for us. Will we let him?

He's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands, he's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got you and my brother in his hands, he's got you and me sister in his hands, He's got all of us together in his hands. He's got the whole world in his hands.