



# Leaning Into the Heart of the Holy

2016 Lenten Devotions

Palm Sunday  
March 20, 2016

## **LORD, PROP US UP...**

**By Jo Anne Scalf**

*Every time I am asked to pray, I think of the old deacon who always prayed, "Lord, prop us up on our leanin' side." After hearing him pray that prayer many times, someone asked him why he prayed that prayer so fervently.*

*He answered, "Well sir, you see, it's like this...I got an old barn out back. It's been there a long time; it's withstood a lot of weather; it's gone though a lot of storms, and it's stood for many years. It's still standing. But one day I noticed it was leaning to one side a bit. It wouldn't fall.*

*Then I got to thinking about that and how much I was like that old barn. I've been around a long time, I've withstood a lot of life's storms. I've withstood a lot of hard times, and I'm still standing too. But I find myself leaning to one side from time to time, so I like to ask the Lord to prop us up on our leaning side, 'cause I figure a lot of us get to leaning at times.*

*Sometimes we get to leaning toward anger, leaning toward bitterness, leaning toward hatred, leaning toward a lot of things that we shouldn't. So, we need to pray, Lord prop us up on our leaning side, so we will stand straight and tall again, to glorify the Lord. (Author unknown)*

I feel like I lean a lot. I lean on my children; I lean on Lakeside; I lean on Jody and Elizabeth and Linda; I lean on our friends who help me out when things are tough. I know in the future, I will lean more.

I am sure there are lots of folks we know who lean a lot and we just don't see it. Lord, help us to see the leaning side of our friends and neighbors and even those we don't even know, and help us prop them up.

## **Prayer:**

### Steadfast Love:

you hand us the palm branches,  
so we can wave them in hope;  
you steady us in the days  
when pain is stuck  
to the bottom of our lives,  
when fear is our constant companion.  
We empty ourselves  
so you might fill us with joy.

### Humble Healer:

When our mouths turn numb  
and we cannot speak our dreams,  
you tenderly caress our cheeks,  
leaning over to hear our faltering words.  
When our arms have grown weak  
from the burdens we carry,  
you take them from us,  
and strengthen us with your mercy.  
We empty ourselves  
so you might fill us with grace.

### Voice of Wisdom:

when death hovers so close  
we can feel it's cold breath,  
you come to us,  
the warm breath of resurrection  
pushing aside our fears.  
When we hesitate to walk into  
the unknown stretching before us,  
you tightly clasp our hands  
and teach us the first step.  
We empty ourselves  
so you might fill us with peace.

God in Community, Holy in One,  
we open our hearts to you. Amen.

–Thom Shuman

## **Luke 19:28-40**

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this: 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."