***Small Group Session:* Week of Lent 6 (Holy Week)**

“You are a group project.”

**Opening**

*Leader:* In our Lent 6 Palm Sunday worship, we were reminded that “you are a group project.” Here is an excerpt from the scripture:

*Then they brought [the colt] 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.” - excerpt from Luke 19: 28-40*.

Jesus orchestrated a low-budget parade into a city where he knew his days were numbered. “Get me a colt,” he said. And folks gathered and his friends started some liturgical shouting that ticked off the local priests. Life is hard and we all need friends and sometimes big, loud, praying that will not be messed with. We are created for interdependence. So, all our hiding and pretending that we are “perfectly fine” all on our own just won’t work. Get on the donkey when you need to and let people lay down their cloaks for you and make some noise for you. ‘Cause you know you’ll do it for them too when the chips are down. What keeps you from connectedness with others?

Let us light a candle, take a deep breath, and pray:

**Holy One, God of Goodness,**

**we long to be in your house in the presence of beloveds,**

**binding the festal procession with branches.**

**Open us this day to your love**

**in and through the webs of our relationships–**

**and in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen**

**Sharing**

*Leader:* In our conversation, everyone is invited to share, but sharing is not required. Please make room for all voices, keeping your contribution to a respectful time limit so everyone has a chance. Whatever is said here stays here – not because we are telling secrets but because we honor that what a person says here is their story to share.

I invite you to share something from the devotions in the book you read so far that resonated with you, hit you as truth in your own life and faith, was funny or painful, or made you think about your own experience. What struck you this week as “good enough?” These are just suggestions… feel free to share whatever is bubbling up around this topic.

*[after all have shared who want to…]*

*Leader:* A question for the group–In the holy days when we commemorate the end of Jesus’ life, we often focus on our personal relationship with Jesus. But what if we saw the whole story like we are one of Jesus’ family, friends, and disciples (which we are)? Can you see your relationship with others as important as the one you would have had with Jesus if you had been there? How does this change your experience of the story?

**Closing**

*Choose one of the blessings from the devotions in the book to read as a closing.*

*Then read this benediction, taken from our weekly worship, together…*

**And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the lonely bits,**

**and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life,**

**and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways,**

**go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. Amen.**