**Palm Sunday Reading 2015**

ARLONA

In the beginning the Word already existed.

JUSTON

The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

GILBERT

He existed in the beginning with God.

JOE

God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him.

KEN

The Word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone.

PHYLLIS

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

ARLONA

I remember the first time I was given a palm branch and told to march with my Sunday School class around the sanctuary.

JUSTON

I whacked my best friend Tommy with mine.

GILBERT

I ran around picking up the extras and braided them into a crown of palm branches.

JOE

Sometimes the adults would join in. I remember one woman who waved her palm branch and smiled this beautiful smile while she sort of danced in the procession. I couldn’t figure out why she was so happy.

KEN

Later on, I learned that waving palm branches and laying down your coats was a sign of honor. It was something that you would do for a king.

PHYLLIS

I could never reconcile in my mind that people would welcome Jesus into Jerusalem and then kill him five days later. Five days!

GILBERT

How fast . . .

ALL

We reject Him.

JOE

The whole Palm Sunday processional was cute when I was a kid. But – eternal life? Really? And it’s free? What a fairy tale!

JUSTON

Jesus said, “I am the true bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will not die as your ancestors did (even though they ate the manna) but will live forever.”

JOE

Ridiculous. Everyone dies. You can’t stop death.

GILBERT

The Spirit alone gives eternal life.

KEN

Human effort accomplishes

ALL but JOE

Nothing.

PHYLLIS

The very words Jesus spoke to His disciples are spirit and life.

ARLONA

But some of us will not believe.

JOE

I don’t believe. I’ve walked away from Jesus and I’m not looking back. You guys have fun waving your palm branches.

JUSTON

I can’t imagine rejecting Jesus. I love Him with all of my heart.

ARLONA

How can I walk away from the Lord who saves my life?

GILBERT

At one point, Jesus asked His disciples, “Are you also going to leave?”

PHYLLIS

Peter said, “Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give . . .

ALL but JOE

Eternal life.

ARLONA

The glory of the promise of eternal life!

JUSTON

The glory of His word in my heart.

GILBERT

The glory of knowing He cares for me.

KEN

The glory of His love.

PHYLLIS

To God be the glory!

JOE

(*beat – then turns his back on the others as they look at him*) No.

ARLONA

(*quietly*) Jesus said, “My words are spirit and life. But some of you do not believe Me.”

GILBERT

At this point many of His disciples turned away and deserted Him.

JUSTON
Are you going to reject Jesus?

KEN

Are you?

PHYLLIS

Are you?

ARLONA

(*beat*) No! Lay the coats down!

JUSTON

Wave the branches!

GILBERT

Sing His praises!

KEN

Make way for the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings!

PHYLLIS

Enter my heart, Lord. I am yours, for eternity.