

## **Lent Day 23**

Monday March 12, 2018

### **Reading:** John 12:1-26

<sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.”

### **Reflection**

It isn't easy to speak about our faith in ways that feel authentic, at least it isn't for me. Of course, we could use every opportunity to pitch an elevator speech to whomever we meet, but for my taste that isn't authentic and I feel like it is off putting. We live in a time and place where we don't talk about religion all that openly. Another issue may be that we don't necessarily see the importance of sharing our faith. The idea seems to be, if someone does become interested they can find information on faith — it is the information age after all! It isn't easy to talk faith when it seems the choice is between sales person or silence.

However, Christianity isn't for the privately religious or the suddenly curious. Christianity is for the world because Christ is Lord of the world. Remember John's opening words that Jesus came to his own, this came after the statement that Jesus is the creative Word of God — everything is his own. The action of God in Christ Jesus wasn't a local religion for either Jews or Gentiles. What God has done in Christ is for everyone, Jew and Gentile. So, once again, when the Pharisees speak with hyperbole they are actually speaking the truth, and in the very next scene, Gentiles come looking for Jesus. This is Jesus's signal that the time has come for him to die. The declaration side of his ministry is complete it is now time for the crucifixion.

This also has implications for us, the modern day Jesus-followers. We are called to share our faith even when it's difficult. In fact, it has always been difficult. But, there is something powerful when we share our story about Jesus and it's invitational in a way which information downloading can never be. We are ambassadors of God, telling the good news of God's action in Jesus for the whole world. There are authentic ways to share the faith, we just need to recognize the need and become comfortable listening for the opportunities God is providing for us to relate in this way.

### **Prayer**

Lord of all, thank you that you do not show favouritism, but love all your creation the same. Help us to discern the time and opportunities to share our faith stories with those whom you are drawing to yourself. Amen.