

Thoughts from Pastor Brooke April 10, 2020

It is finished. ~ John 19:30a

It is Good Friday, one of the most solemn days on the Christian calendar. The day that Jesus faces an unfair trial that results in his death by crucifixion. As he hangs on the cross, he declares, “It is finished.” And yet, we know the rest of the story. But we can’t get too far ahead of ourselves. It is important to sit in the sadness of the death of Jesus: a death that came about because he spoke truth to power; because he preached something that would turn the status quo on its head. A death that, even in his dying, would prove how much he loved his followers. But when he utters, “It is finished,” his mother, his mother’s sister Mary — wife of Clopas, Mary Magdalene, and one of his disciples do not know that in three days he will rise.

How many of us are wishing to hear the words, “It is finished” in regard to this isolation? How many of us want to know what the end of this story looks like for us and our loved ones? I would guess many of us. But just as we can’t jump ahead in Holy Week to Easter morning, it is important to sit with the uncertainty of this time. While we may be in our homes alone or with only our immediate family, this is a time to remember that just as God was with Jesus while he hung on the cross, God is with us. It’s okay to feel sad and overwhelmed and scared at times; we all do. But let’s not rush to the end of this story. Let’s take it day by day. This will not last forever, but we will be forever changed because of it. Stay in this moment and feel your grief, feel your fear, feel overwhelmed. But know that God is with you in those moments and will not leave you there.

When we hear the words, “It is finished,” we will undoubtedly rejoice, but it is my prayer that because we have been changed, we will enter back into our routines in a different way. On this Good Friday, I invite you to take the time to read the entire story in John 18:1-19:42 as you prepare yourself for Easter morning.

Blessings,

Pastor Brooke

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

