

For Good Friday Evening

*READING*

*Mark ch 15 v 42-47*





*A picture of Joseph with Jesus body - this is the “new” idea, fresh thinking about the crucifixion story for me this year – this image” is what started and has travelled with me in my thinking about Easter this holy Week – Joseph’s part in the story - till we come at last to this moment after death - when Joseph asks for and gets the body to take away and bury.*

This is one of the extraordinary parts of Jesus' crucifixion.

His body is not left to rot as a visible sign of what happens to rebels or threats to the authority.

Pilate appears compassionate unlike his reputation in history.

Joseph of Arimathea reveals himself as someone who does not want Jesus mocked.

His actions suggest that maybe Jesus' death convinces him of the truth of Jesus life, words and teaching.

Jesus is laid in a tomb.

The end but not the end.

There are so many parallels too trite to articulate here between the bleakness of that seeming end and the situation we find ourselves in on Good Friday 2020.

A hope we might hold is that for many this Good Friday may be for them, like for Joseph, a time and a place where Jesus makes sense and discipleship becomes a new reality

And when all of us, like Joseph, may do our best to serve the one we understand is God in human form, Jesus, who dies for the life of the world.

A prayer



Holy God

What do we pray this night  
when even hope seems a difficult concept  
and evil and death seem to hold sway.

Help us watch and wait,  
yes go through the rituals of living with the reality of  
death and loss  
until we know the joy of resurrection.

But that is for days to come,  
now we rest our hope in You.

You alone

whom Jesus promises

are the one who can do what we think and imagine is  
impossible

In His name we pray amen.