

Good Friday Reflections 2020

Morialta Uniting Church

Find a place that is comfortable for you, maybe next to the window as the sunlight enters, maybe the lounge, or your favorite spot. Read slowly and pause for reflection as you spend some time reflecting on some symbols of Easter, to take some time to look around, and think about how we might travel through this day and on through Easter.

Candle

We began this journey through Lent as a time of reflection on and preparation for Easter, 40 days ago. 6 weeks – a long time. Can you remember what you were doing 40 days ago? It seems we were in a different world.



We focus on this candle representing our need of light for this journey. We are reminded that Jesus is known as the Light of the world and that this light shines in our darkness. As light helps us see, it also invites us to draw closer to it. Jesus' light has shone light to our path.

And as we walk towards Easter, may Jesus' light shine ahead of us that we might follow him and in turn show his light to others.

Cross



As we look at the cross, we are fully aware of what it represents- death and life. From the cross Jesus called, "it is accomplished", "it is finished". Jesus dying on the cross sets the stage for us to understand the greatest act of love for another is to give your life, for them. The cross may represent suffering and death, but it also represents new and everlasting life.

As we walk toward Easter, may the cross remind us of the love and life Jesus gives.

Communion Cup and Bread



During his last meal with his friends, Jesus took bread and wine and showed his friends that the bread and wine represented his life and his death and the new life that Jesus offers. We, like Jesus, would desire the cup to be taken away, removed, but we know this cup and the bread reminds us of much more in Jesus. In the brokenness and spilling there is new life just like a grain of wheat that must fall to the ground and be buried in order for many grains to shoot and grow.

As we walk toward Easter, we are invited to eat the broken bread and drink of the cup to remember Jesus to be sustained for our journey.

Wire

The crown of thorns, the pain Jesus endured for us. This so called 'crown' was made of sharp, hard, thorns. We might use barbed wire these days!



It was put on Jesus in fun, to mock him because people were calling him the King of the Jewish people. This barbed wire also reminds us of people today who are mistreated and mistakenly trapped behind barb wire.



They might be in refugee camps, detention centers or even prisons, women, men, boys and girls.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Luke 4:19

As we walk towards Easter we are reminded again of God's justice and mercy and the hope and freedom found in Christ.

Rooster

This image of a rooster tells us again that we too have denied Christ at times.



In the story of Jesus and Easter, we read of Peter, one of Jesus closest friends who said to Jesus that he would never run away from him and he would support him through good and bad times. However as we read, we hear that Jesus says to Peter that before the rooster crows, he will have denied Jesus three times.

Sadly that is what happened. So the rooster reminds us that we too, don't always follow Jesus as we should or say we will.

As we walk toward Easter we are aware that the symbol of the rooster reminds us of a bad day, but also the dawn of a new day when the sun will rise and the light will shine.

Rock

Jesus knelt on a large rock and prayed, and he prayed for a long time. He prayed for strength, for strength to face what was going to happen. He prayed for the disciples.



He prayed that God would lead him and be close to him in what would become a time of great stress and even being left alone.

There was also another rock, one which was rolled into place to seal the tomb in which Jesus was placed on Good Friday. This rock said very emphatically – done! Finished! No more, that's it! (or was it?)

As we walk toward Easter, we are invited to enter our own times of prayer, seeking strength and guidance as we reflect on the Easter symbols.

Prayer

In the quiet moments, in the still places,
I can sometimes hear it;
An urgent voice, echoing through the wildernesses of the world,
and of my heart calling me to prepare and to participate
in the new world that wants to be born.

How can I be part of something that I haven't seen,
that I struggle even to conceptualise, let alone understand?
Yet, still the voice calls, and my heart stirs.

I begin to imagine a world of joy and creativity,
a world where the poor are always cared for
and the rich are always generous;
a world where justice guides,
and where mourning is always temporary;
a world where the highest values are valued most highly
and where priorities and agendas are set
with the greatest good in mind.

This world exists, Jesus, in the Gospel you preached,
in the stable and the cross and the empty tomb,
in Baptismal waters and Eucharistic meals
in your constant calling, and your constant coming.

And so we praise you for this world,
and for the dream that we can learn to know it here and now
even as you do.

Amen.