

Friendship Faith

The Vicar Writes...



March 2018

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season of Lent, a time when we get ready for the events that happen in Holy Week, the week leading up to Good Friday and Easter Sunday, I started to wonder why we call Good Friday '*good*'. It's such a dark and bleak event commemorating a day of suffering and death for Jesus? According to the Bible, the son of God was flogged, ordered to carry the cross on which he would be crucified and then put to death. It's difficult to see what's '*good*' about it.

Some Christian traditions do reflect the dark events that took place on Good Friday – in German, the day is called *Karfreitag*, or '*Sorrowful Friday*'. Some sources suggest the day is '*good*' because it's holy, or that the phrase is a corruption of '*God's Friday*'.

Regardless of the origin, the name Good Friday is entirely appropriate because the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God's plan to save his people from their sins. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be a momentous weekend in the history of the world, the decisive turning point for all creation.

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. It's '*good*' because as terrible as that day was, it happened for us to receive the joy of Easter. Easter, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, in accordance with the promise of God in the Scriptures. Heralding his victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to him by faith.

We receive divine forgiveness, mercy, and peace because Jesus willingly took our punishment. Jesus endured the cross on Good Friday, knowing it led to his resurrection, our salvation, and the beginning of God's reign of righteousness and peace. Good Friday marks the day when wrath and mercy met at the cross. That's why Good Friday is so dark and so '*good*'. May God bless you this Easter and give you grateful hearts for the life Jesus poured out for us and for the suffering on Good Friday that takes our sin away and led to his resurrection, our hope of eternal life.

Rev'd Nicki