

Good Friday - March 29, 2013

We call this day Good Friday. On it we mark the death of our Savior and Lord. And we're not talking about just any old garden variety death here; we're talking crucifixion, basically the worst kind of death sentence. Thanks to John (and thanks to Ramona, and Jean, and Betty, and Amanda), we know what that means. Thanks to Matthew, and Mark, and Luke, we all know just how unpleasant, just how painful, just how brutal our Lord's death was. So why in God's name would we call this Good Friday? What could possibly be good about this day?

Well if this day is all about pain, if we allow Mel Gibson and his ilk to focus our attention on how miserable a day this was for Jesus, this Friday doesn't look good at all. We begin to see God as an angry disciplinarian who demands suffering as the price for reconciliation. On the other hand, if we focus - as Jesus himself did - on the love he had then and has now for all of us, the self-giving, immaculate, perfect love of God expressed through the life of Jesus Christ, then this day becomes good indeed. Why in God's name do we call it Good Friday? Because God showed us on this day and in God's name just what real love means, just how powerful it can be. That makes this a really Good Friday.

God's love on the cross is part of who God is, part of God's eternal nature. We are not abandoned. God is with us. God is with us in our laughing, and in our crying, and in our eating, and in our sleeping. God is with us in our working, and in our playing, and in our vestry meetings. God is with us even when we hurt, especially when we hurt. So now as always, in the light of that love and in God's name, we can live our lives, we can share our love, we can pray our prayers. Amen.