

Sermon for 2019 Yr C Good Friday  
Preached Friday 4/19/2019 at St. James', Mount Vernon  
By the Rev. Charles F. Brock

It is Friday night. A tornado of raw power and injustice has just demolished that small band of disciples. Betrayal, arrest, interrogation and judgment, crucifixion and death.

It seems a harsh question to ask, where is Jesus?

For his disciples, he's gone. His body is in the tomb.

And we here tonight touch the experience of his disciples, tasting their desolation, remembering all the ways in which we too have been desolate and bereft, when we have faced failure and death, when our hopes, and dreams, and plans, went down in flames.

Good Friday brings us face to face with that which none of us wants to look at. Good Friday contains our greatest fears, that which we dread the most, those things that put a tight knot in our stomach and an ache in our chests. We cannot deny that these fears are real, they have tremendous power over us, they constrain our lives and direct our most important decisions.

Tonight, through the suffering of Jesus, we come close to our fears, of loss, failure, abandonment, despair, and we hold them up to the light of resurrection.

For the power of Good Friday is that Jesus suffered, just like we suffer, just as we fear suffering, and yet God did not abandon Jesus, even in death.

Good Friday is not a day apart from the resurrection. If it were, we would have to call it Black Friday. Good Friday is made good by the resurrection, by the knowledge that Jesus is resurrected, and that nothing, not even our worst fears, can separate any of us from the love of God.

Jesus' body is in the tomb, and yet the tomb does not hold him. He is not there. He is with us, no matter where we are.

Amen.