

Dawn Service Reflection 2023.

Reading: Matthew 28: 1-10

One of the things which has really struck me this year, as I have made the journey through Holy Week, has been the amount of love which has infused all the actions of Jesus.

Now here, on this first morning of the week, at dawn, we see another example of God's love for humankind.

The women, who had stayed the course throughout the crucifixion, who had noted where they had taken the body of Jesus, now came to anoint him, to complete the final service they could possibly do for their beloved friend and Lord.

It was to the women that the angel gives the glad tidings:

"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." [Matthew 28: 5-7]

It was the women who were the first to meet the risen Jesus, as they hurried on the road to tell the disciples what they had experienced at the tomb.

Through the love of God, despair and grief has turned to joy and hope.

Today, we relight the Pascal Candle, and, as is my tradition, it will journey through the year with us, always reminding us of God's love for us; always being a sign of hope.

An e-friend posted earlier in the week:

While this week is about the passion of Jesus, his suffering, his death, it is also about God's passion, God's heart, God's compassion, God's presence with us in our suffering. ¹

As I have attempted to "Listen to Him", Jesus, on the journey through Lent and Holy Week, I acknowledge the message of Love I have heard.

This candle we imbue with love and as we travel through the year will be a reminder to love, to have compassion, to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God. ²

This is the light of Christ – thanks be to God. Amen

Revd Sally Buckley tssf
April 9, 2023.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

1. Thom M. Shuman, as posted on Facebook on Monday, April 3, 2023.
2. Micah 6: 8b.