

How do we sit with the complexity of the passion narrative – a story of political unrest, civil disobedience, death, compassion and unmeasurable love?

It is the central story of our faith and yet it raises so many questions for us, about God's love and our complicity as humanity when faced with injustice.

During the week I was reading a Leunig poem/reflection, which made me ponder the story of Holy Week:

*I fell down on my knee to see
a tiny, little thing-
A creature I had never seen before,
moving with great purpose
with dignity and skill.
A noble thing! A noble life!
(it seemed to me as there I swayed from knee to knee)
I beheld the tiny little thing
and happiness was mine.
everything made sense.
My knees felt fine.
I rose from off my bones into a world
a riper soul –
a more reminded and contented man.
“We’ll meet again, “I sing
“We’ll meet again
oh tiny, tiny noble little thing”¹*

One of the reasons I was struck by this image was the power of being brought to our knees to observe, to ponder, to pray, and while on our knees in such a vulnerable place we observe the wonder, the nobility, the power, the grace – and if we can stay with it – if we can bear to continue to look – it may be that we are transformed and have a new outlook on ourselves and on God.

The story and pattern of Holy Week reminds us to come, to be drawn on our knees and to ponder the story – the tiny story which is the passion which is in fact the biggest story ever told. We ponder the inability of humanity to respond to the wonder and love of God, and continue to choose to hurt creation. We ponder the immensity of God's love for us, we ponder the shape of the story and the events and we allow it to speak to our soul over and over.

And at the heart of this Holy Week message – which is the message we have shared over and over again in the past weeks as local students who have come to hear the story of Holy Week and Easter – is that in the midst of all this story is the fact that

¹ Leunig Collection 2018

God is with us. God is with us in our joy and in our suffering. Whatever we have to face – we never have to face it alone – God is with us.

How do we sit and journey then in the coming week?

Uncomfortably I suspect.

But in this most important week of our year let us ensure we take the time to recognise that - to walk with God in the struggle of the journey, to ponder this story *moving with great purpose, with dignity and skill*, and to listen to what God is saying to us now, and to love – with the love of God that will embrace us whatever we encounter. Amen.