



(Love in Hebrew)

Dear People of God: I had the amazingly life-giving experience to zoom with some families and young children last evening! (some of us young at heart came too!). As I prepared for it I was conscious of delivering or promoting a message of hope and love instead of doom and gloom. I even skipped over some of the brutal passages of the passion story. I did speak of crucifixion because without it the Resurrection is less powerful and divine! It is not resuscitation after all!

I wander from my message today which is this: While this week is about torture and accusation and brutal power and death, it is also about love...all the way through, even at the foot of the cross!

I read somewhere that Holy Week is the week that Jesus intensifies teaching us how to love one another! Certainly this is obvious at the Last Supper and the assertion of a new commandment to love one another! But each day? Good Friday?

Yes!

We learn to love each other by preparing celebratory moments. We learn to love each other by having conversations about hard topics. We learn to love each other by recognizing at some point to extricate ourselves from the maddening crowd.

We express our love to each other with beauty, expressions on our faces, kind gestures, accompaniment and service. We express our love for each other by staying.

When we engage in the waterfall of emotions which Holy Week brings, now exacerbated by the torrent of emotions in this pandemic, we live into the loving and beloved selves which God yearns for us to be.

We cannot stop Holy Week, and we cannot pluck out the good parts only! We must live it all. And when it seems like too much perhaps we remember that we are all negotiating this thing called life or life in the time of coronavirus together! There is love in that togetherness...it is called communion!

So look for and live into love this week! And do it in remembrance of Christ!

Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and walk humbly with your God"

--Micah 6:8

"We seldom notice how each day is a holy place Where the eucharist of the ordinary happens, Transforming our broken fragments Into an eternal continuity that keeps us."

— John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Invocations and Blessings

I would love to live like a river flows, carried by the surprise of its own unfolding.
— **John O'Donohue**