



## Holy Week Reflections

*Tuesday of Holy Week*

**Matthew 4:12**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

This is a picture of the sun rising over the Sea of Galilee. We know that this was an important place for Jesus; it's clear from this verse that he felt safe here. It's amazing to know that he walked by this lake; perhaps it provided times of solitude. As Jesus journeyed through Holy Week, I wonder if he began to miss this place.

What are we missing today?

It's the little things I miss;  
the feel of the wind on my face, the grass under  
my feet.  
The ability to stand and stare at the view,  
and the chats with friends over coffee.

Everything feels so strange just now.

Jesus, where are you?

My child I am with you here in the strangeness,  
helping you to walk through it as I always have.  
Learn to find peace in what you can do.  
Value the little things.  
Know I am with you always.



### *About these reflections*

In January 2019, I was blessed to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and to see some of the places where the historical events of Holy Week probably happened. Until I visited, it had never struck me how hard that last week in the city must have been for those essentially rural people. No wonder they walked down the hill from the city and up over the Mount of Olives to the village of Bethany each evening, to be among familiar friends and in a quieter place. No wonder Jesus sought solace and His Father in a garden. Life among stone and brick is hard when trees and soil and water and space are familiar.

Elizabeth Clark (National Rural officer for the Methodist and United Reformed Churches) and I have taken some of the photographs I took on that pilgrimage and reflected on episodes from that last week. These photographs and reflections are what we offer to you now. We are all in unfamiliar territory this week. Our world is changing around us so very quickly. None of us will be quite the same after this experience. We pray that these reflections might help you navigate this challenging Holy Week.

God bless you this Easter.

**Revd Claire Maxim, CEO, Arthur Rank Centre**

April 2020