



Holy Week Reflections

Good Friday

Matthew 27:46

And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'

As darkness covers the land, Jesus gives voice to his feelings of despair and abandonment.

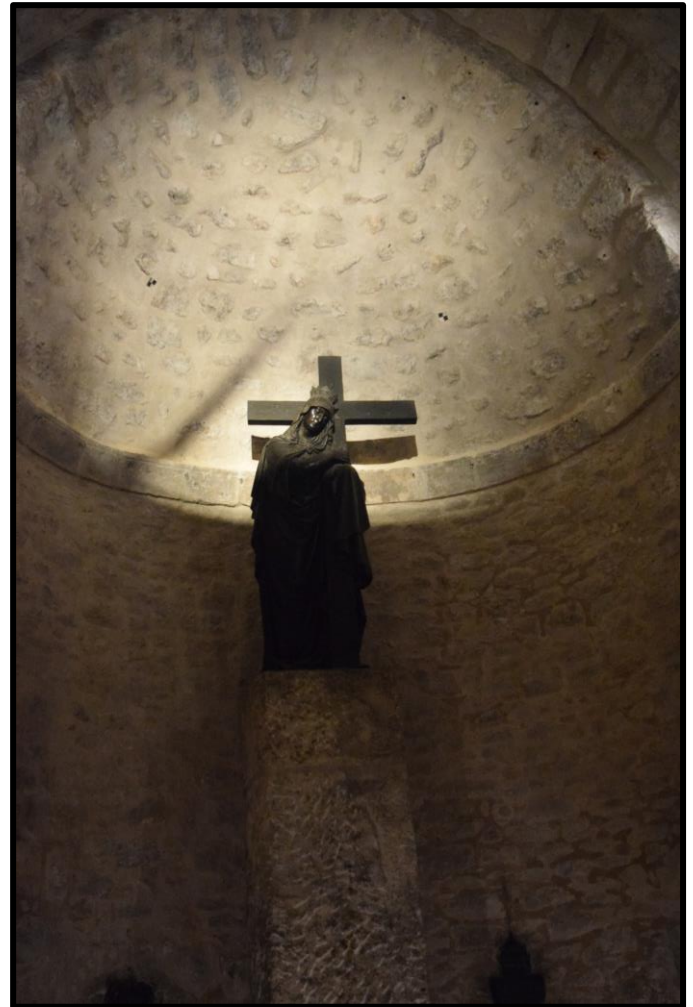
Lord it feels dark.

Our communities will be changed forever by what is happening.

For some village shops it will be a boost while others will close.
Some businesses will thrive others disappear.

Lives will be changed forever.

As we walk through this darkness together
Help us to know we are not alone.



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

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