



Holy Week Reflections

Easter Sunday

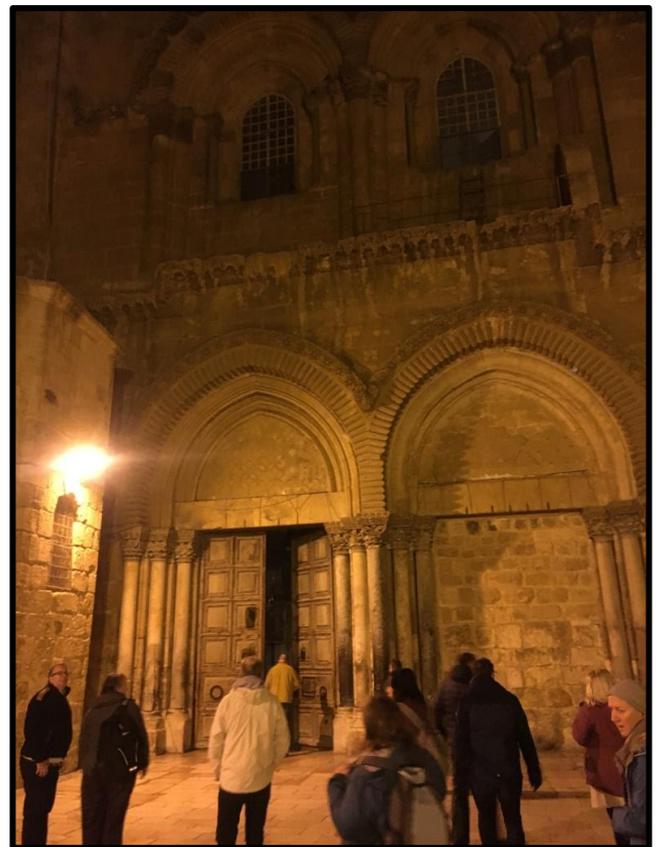
Matthew 28:1-10

Very early, on a cold Sunday morning in January, I too got up early and made my way through the city of Jerusalem, in my case to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which is or isn't the site of Jesus' tomb.

The normally packed city streets, full of shouts and bangs and bustling elbows, were silent and still and eerie. Everywhere in Jerusalem was oppressively busy in my experience, but here was quiet. On that Sunday morning, I had some very small sense of what it was to walk those streets into the unknown.

Today we see village, town and city streets which are much quieter than we expect. We live with uncertainty about what today's news will bring. But we have a sure and certain hope, grounded in Jesus Christ, his death and his mighty resurrection. As Christians we live in the light of that hope and pray for brighter days to dawn.

God bless you this Easter Day and 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

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