

Easter 2019

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

Friends of Christ Memorial,

A few days ago, I was in our sanctuary and I encountered a group of Eastern European women who were on a holiday. We leave our sanctuary open for prayer during the day, Monday through Friday. All day long tourists on the way to the Lighthouse stop to photograph our little church. Many walk the burial grounds and some come in to pray. One of the women asked if I had time to talk with her. In tears she shared she had just lost her twin brother and she was haunted by a few questions. She said she wasn't a "church" person and she wondered if I thought he was in heaven and if he continued to remember her. I spent some time with her sharing my belief, and our church's belief, that the God we worship is a God of unconditional love. I promised I would hold her and her brother in prayer.

In that short encounter I sensed she left more at peace. I hope so. For me the blessing was the realization of just how important leaving our doors open is for people. I'm wondering if it is the most important ministry of our church. Our world is going through a tumultuous time. Wars, storms, violence, drug addiction, hate speech, extreme poverty, along with our own personal struggles leave us wondering, "How long, O Lord?" From what I've experienced and from what I've heard from many others is the sacred space of our little sanctuary for the Spirit seems to call out, "Come in, be at rest for a moment in God's peace. Know that all will be well."

We are less than three weeks away from the most sacred time of year in our Episcopal church. Beginning Palm Sunday, we again will walk with our Master Jesus to the end of his earthly journey and to his resurrection on that first Easter morning. On this walk, we receive so many blessings, one of them being the reminder that Jesus' true nature, like his God and our God, is love. He loved us so much that he gave everything, including his mortal life, so that we can believe with absolute assurance in the destiny of our own soul.

Our Easter offering this year will be directed to continuing to enhance the beauty and peace of our sanctuary and burial grounds and ways to share with our island family and its visitors the deeper joys of the soul and the perfect love that Jesus and our God can give. A labyrinth is in the planning stages as is a docent and prayer ministry.

I thank you for whatever support you can give. There is also a Good Friday offering for our church in Jerusalem.

Whether you are on island or not, we are all `ohana and as `ohana we walk Holy Week together. May you and your family be bathed in the love and peace of our God.

Pastor Gae+

Pictured at left are the Stations of the Cross created on canvas by parishioners for Lent 2019.

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