

Sunday, April 13, 2014
Rev. Diane Monti-Catania

Sermon: Introduction to a reading of Matthew 26-27 - the Passion Narrative

Scripture is the story of humankind's relationship to God.

From the Old Testament to the New, drama unfolds and we are reminded that while many things may change – the weaknesses that plague humanity are eternal.

We all struggle with the larger questions of life:
What are we here for? Why do we hurt the people we love?

How can we serve God?

This week, holy week, we are confronted with the story that marks the foundation of our faith.
We are offered a king, a savior, a gift from God.

But the crowds, the leaders, the fear lead to betrayal, desertion, and death.

We are in the story – we are the story.

Today, rather than a sermon, we will hear the words of scripture that tell our story.

I want you to place yourself in Jerusalem at Passover.

Listen to the story as if it is the first time you have heard it.

Ask yourself, what you would do?

Where are you in Jerusalem?

Hear now a reading from Matthew's gospel 26:14 – 27:66.

Let us pray.

A poem by Ann Weems

[Jesus Weeping Over Jerusalem]

There is but one face
Whose holy eyes
Won't turn away,
But focus on us and weep...
Jesus, you!
Like a mother hen
Yearning to gather us to you
But we would not
For we have killed the
prophets

And stoned the messengers.
Now abandoned and empty,
The stones of the temple
waiting to fall
around our ankles,
we still do not come
to you,
and, even now,
you weep.

Please pray.

Time of Silence

Amen.