

## Good Friday, Year C

- Good Friday is, I find, a day that often leaves me with more questions than answers
- Starting with, “What is so “good” about Good Friday?”
- And then moving from there to, “Why did Jesus have to die?” and “Is this what Christian love is really supposed to look like?” That last one I always ask with a bit of nervousness behind it – “Is this what’s expected of me?”
- I find I can’t really even talk about today without talking about some other days
- Days like yesterday, Maundy Thursday when we heard about how we’re meant to embody love – when Jesus gives us an example – shows something concrete that we can do, a habit we can form
- But we need to know: how far does it go? How far are we meant to take love?
- Today offers us a glimpse
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- I want to talk about another important day, too:
- One we celebrated not too terribly long ago, – the feast of the Incarnation – Christmas
- The day on which we hear that Jesus shall be called Emmanuel, God-with-us
- That joyful day which actually finds its completion not with a baby in a manger, not with the coming of wise men from foreign lands, not even with the working of miracles – but today, here, on the cross
- Because today may not mirror the unbridled joy of Christmas, but there is Good News even here, even now
- It is today that we understand that God has cast God’s own lot in with ours – that God isn’t merely looking down on us from above, from some unfathomable distance – that God didn’t simply set in motion a cruel chain of events that leaves us at the mercy of chance, abandoned
- Because God is **there** – at that agonizing moment on the cross – so that we know that there isn’t one single moment of our lives, one single experience we can point to, not even at our most dejected, most downcast, most damaged – there is not one moment we can single out and say, “God is not **there** with us.”
- Our Emmanuel, our God-with-us, is with us always, even to the end of the age, even to the ends of the earth – even to the depths of what humanity has to offer, what humanity has to suffer
- Our God is present even in those moments when we are compelled to cry aloud, “My God,

my God, why have you forsaken me?”,

- Today, the veil is torn, yes – but as it is, we see clearly into the sanctuary, see clearly who God is – we see God’s staggering glory
- We see that God has truly shared in our human life, so that we might share in the divine life
- We see that God is with us. Always.
- Because that is how deeply God loves us all.