

QUARANTINE REFLECTION 10 - Good Friday.

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. - Isaiah 53:5

For many of you this day under ‘normal’ circumstances would just be the first day of a nice long bank holiday weekend. A time for gathering together loved ones and spending time together perhaps the first BBQ of the year as the signs of summer begin to show itself.

It’s not ‘normal’ though it’s anything but the ‘normal’ we are used to.

It wasn’t ‘normal’ for Jesus approximately 2000 years ago either. We looked yesterday at his last evening and how we remember his last meal and his time spent with his disciples. Today we reflect on his final day, the trumped up charges that brought him before the authorities. The crowd who only a few days before had been cheering and waving palms for him were now screaming and baying “Crucify Him, Crucify Him!” The man whom they had listened to in the temples and had been fed on the hillside, was now being dragged through the streets having been flogged and beaten. We forget or choose to not remember how horrific that day was, we sometimes want to skim over how awful it was - the journey to the cross was long and arduous and Jesus was helped by a man chosen from the crowds by the soldiers. The mocking continued even after he was nailed and hung high upon the cross. Make no mistake his death was not an easy one Jesus hung there, attached to the cross by nails, for approximately six hours.

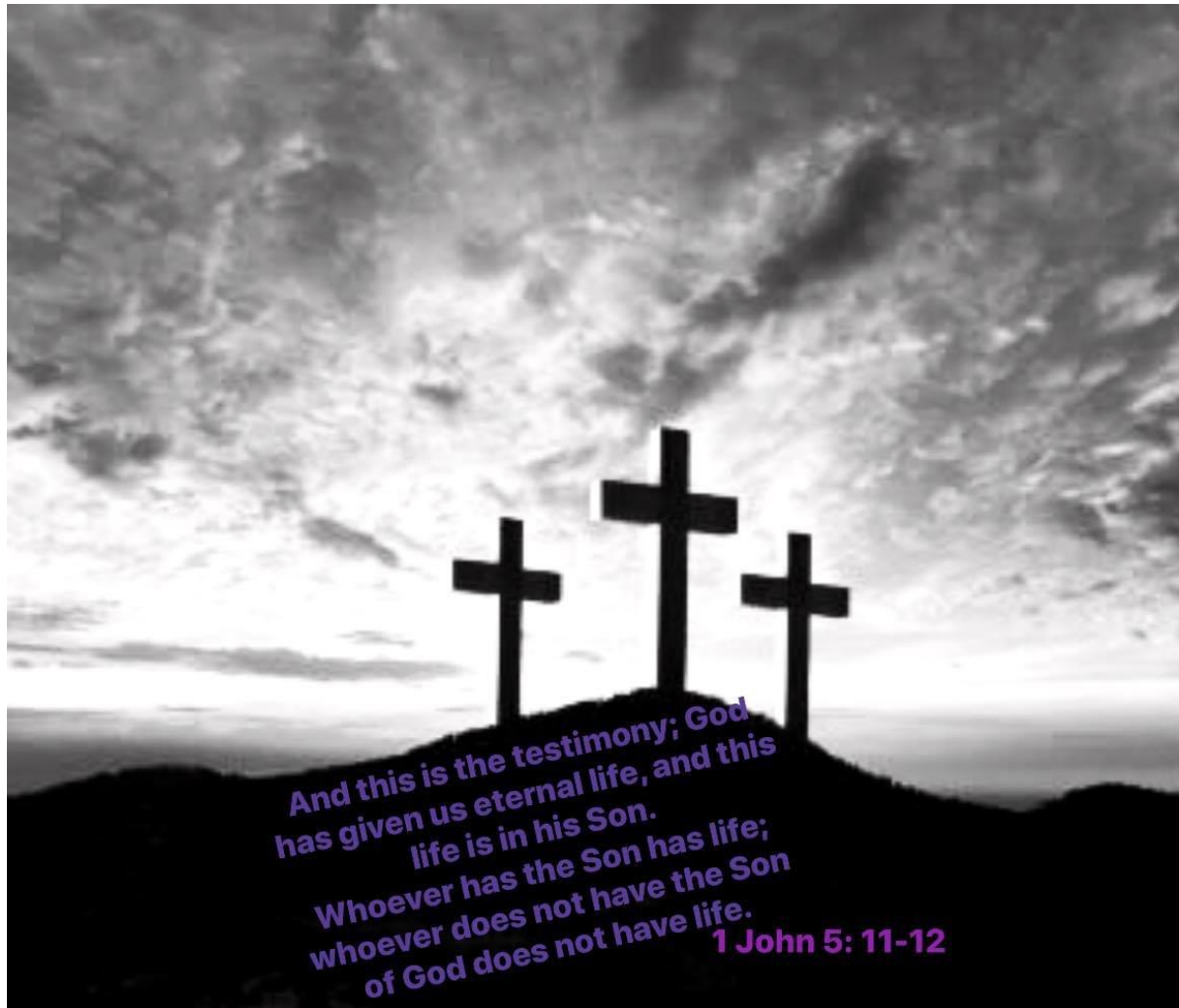
I challenge you to stand and stretch out your arms in a crucifixion stance and I will say with some certainty that you will struggle to make it to six minutes before you start to hurt and drop your arms. When that final moment came, the relief that death brought it was then that for some realisation dawned that this was no ordinary man, all the clues added up the midday darkness covering the land, the time he endured on the cross and how he died.

It is quite sobering to know that Jesus bore all that for me and for you and for all our wrongdoings. If we were to list all those wrongs we have done or indeed thought, even in the past few days would we wriggle a little uncomfortable in our seat. Because Jesus journeyed that road to Calvary, because he died on the cross for us that list of wrongs is torn up and we get to start again, to try a bit harder to be the person Jesus wants us to be. There is always a second, third, fourth, fifth chance with Jesus because he did All of this for us.

So for our not so very ‘normal’ Good Friday where nothing feels like it ought to, where our loved ones feel so very far away, where some of us are broken hearted because it feels like we cannot grieve loved ones who have died in the past few weeks and we feel lost, angry and helpless because we can’t have those ‘normal’ times of community, hugs, funerals and goodbyes and our whole world feels like it is crashing around us. We must still have hope and the promise that all will be well. We have hope that each and every one of us no matter who we are or what we have done are enveloped in a love that not even death could defeat and that will be our strength.

My prayer today is that you will find peace in this hurting and what feels like a broken time, may you each know the comfort, love and presence of Jesus as we travel this not so ‘normal’ few days and week. May God bless you all. AMEN

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONE AND ONLY SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE. John 3:16



And this is the testimony; God
has given us eternal life, and this
life is in his Son.
Whoever has the Son has life;
whoever does not have the Son
of God does not have life.
1 John 5: 11-12