

The Servant Song Giles Blankenship

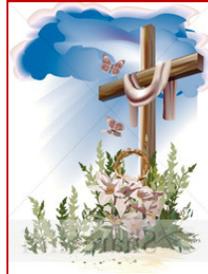
We are travelers on a journey
Fellow pilgrims on the road
We are here to help each other walk a mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ light for you in the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you speak the peace you long to hear

I will hold you
I will carry
Here's my shoulder
I will journey with you

Brother, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too
Sister, let me be your servant. Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too

Will you journey with me? ...

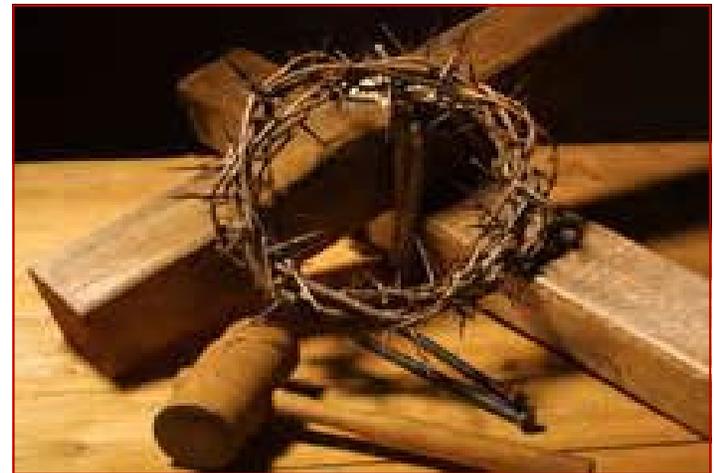


Thank you for joining us!

Prayer Leader
Mary Timko
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What lies beyond the cross?



Our prayer is characterized
by silence

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

To Ponder: by Mary Timko

On Good Friday the children in our family were the only kids on our block that had to be inside from noon to 3:00. There was always grumbling, but I left the rest behind and ran for the bible so no one else would take it. I read the gospel stories about Jesus' death. The agony in the garden made me sad. I felt anxiety as the mob came to take Jesus away. But my favorite part was Jesus healing the servant's ear. Here in the midst of anger, betrayal, and sadness Jesus was still performing miracles.

Lent has always been important to me. Even as a child, I was aware the significance for the sacrifice "giving up," and the elaborate services held in church. The holy mystery enveloped me, heart and soul. I wish life could be that simple again. But what actually comes to mind is Corinthian 13:11, "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I gave up my childish ways."

As adults, how do we let the holy mystery of Lent envelop us, our hearts, our souls? Through prayer and fasting, it is a time for self reflection and spiritual growth. It is also a time to look beyond our own needs and become aware of our neighbors and their needs. The funny thing is that we may do all of the things we are supposed to do; attend church on Sunday, give our tithing every week, do and say all the right things and still feel as though something is missing. I guess the danger here is to think that we can do all of this on our own. I know that I thought this way at one point in time. I was very active in our church. I didn't know how to say no. I was also tired, worn out and felt unappreciated. I felt empty. I know now part of it was pride. The other part was that I forgot why I offered so much of myself, Jesus. Jesus was my strength. I needed him in my daily life. Thank goodness Jesus reaches out, takes us by his nail-pierced hands and lifts us up in love. He takes our pride and replaces it with his forgiveness.

Reading:

(attributed to Sir Francis Drake -1577)

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves,
When our dreams have come true
Because we have dreamed too little,
When we arrived safely
Because we sailed too close to the shore.

Disturb us, Lord, when
With the abundance of things we possess
We have lost our thirst
For the waters of life;
Having fallen in love with life,
We have ceased to dream of eternity
And in our efforts to build a new earth,
We have allowed our vision
Of the new Heaven to dim.

Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,
To venture on wider seas
Where storms will show Your mastery;
Where losing sight of land,
We shall find the stars.
We ask You to push back
The horizons of our hopes;
And to push into the future
In strength, courage, hope, and love.

Sharing...

a word...

a phrase...

a reflection...