Good Friday Sermon

What does "Good Friday" mean today?

Conway United Church Service

We can view "Good Friday" from the four foundations of our Christian theology: Hope, Faith, Joy and Love. Later we will look at the cross and meanings.
Hope

In the beginning, God our Father, Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit already existed and wanted to create a human habitation for us.

When God our Father created the earth, he created a Nature Community. In this community all animals of the air, the land and the sea were created to sustain each other. The land produced fruits and grains in its kind to feed and nourish the earth as well as all animal life.

When God our Father created Adam and Eve, he created a Human Community. In this community, God walked with them in friendship and compassion. In this Garden of Eden, our world was full of peace, plenty and a lack of pain.

It was the hope of God our Father, Our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, that this Human Community would grow and be at peace, nourished by the Nature Community and God's love.

Human frailties' brought this hope crashing down on God and on themselves. And so, Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden and were forced to live a life of work, pain and uncertain futures.

It is in this uncertain world that Jesus was born, to lead all of us back to God our Father.
Faith

Mary the Mother of God, believed in the angel Gabriel, when he came to her and announced that she had found favor with God. She could bear a child, and he would be called Emmanuel, God with Us. He will be great and will be called the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his Father and he will reign over Jacob's descendents forever, his kingdom will never end. Mary, by her faith, proclaimed, I am the Lord's servant, may the word be fulfilled in me.

Joy

When Jesus was baptized at the River Jordan, God our Father was filled with joy and sent the Holy Spirit to enlighten him for the journey that was beginning. God said, "In you I am well pleased."

Jesus went to the Sea of Galilee and was seeking disciples. God our Father, looked into the hearts of the fisherman and chose certain ones to follow Jesus. Jesus was full of joy for God of Father's support of a group of disciples to proclaim the "Good News" to the Israelites.

Jesus ministry to heal the sick, feed the four thousand and again the five thousand and the Parables are the lessons on
how to live a peacefully and righteous life. These were all ways that the joy of God's love was to be shared openly with everyone.

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**Love**

We know this scripture, we have heard it many times. Consider this scripture now for its "Good Friday" meaning -

*For God so loved the world that he gave us Jesus the Christ, so that who so ever believed in him would have everlasting life.*

*Amen.*

God's great love for his son on this day, is proclaimed by his being raised up so that the world would come to the cross and so be saved.

The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world is now made manifest to the Jews, the Romans, the Greeks and by Paul the Apostle, the world. This was true then and is true today for you and for me.

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This love was so great that on the third day, God our Father, raised up his son by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is called the "Breath of Life", "The Wisdom of God" and is offered freely by Jesus to us here at Adolphustown Conway.
Pastoral Charge. We are believers in a new and more intimate way to feel God's presence in our lives.

We are truly blessed.


The Cross

The Cross as a symbol has many meanings.

For those suffering as a result of human sinfulness, this cross redeems.

For those experiencing great sorrow, this cross brings assurance that we do not suffer alone.

For those in need of direction for their lives, this cross directs us to a more fulfilling life with real meaning and great joy.

For those who seek power and wealth, the cross mocks them and shows that this is all worthless, only loving and caring for each other is all that truly has value.

What does "Good Friday" mean today?

The "Good" in "Good Friday" should always remind us that even though Jesus died this day 2,000 years ago, he was raised up on the third day by God's love for his son. Jesus rules over us for all eternity.
God our Father is "Good" because he believed in his son, and his son proclaimed the Kingdom of God to all.

Jesus Christ is" Good" because he freely forgives our sinfulness and returns us again and again to him.

The Holy Spirit is "Good" because the "Breath of Life of God" and the "Wisdom of God" is freely given to all.

We are a blessed people. We are an Easter People. We are loved by God who is always Good to us.

Let us pray

Jesus, as the Suffering Servant, you willingly chose to follow God's decision to show the world how to truly believe, by offering yourself on the cross this day.

Goodness pours out from you, two thousand years ago and even today, drawing us closer to you, redeeming us, healing us and leading us forward each day.

Guide us as we continue on our faith journey.

We are an Easter People. Hallelujah!!

Amen.