

Good Friday 2023

We gather together this afternoon, an hour before the time of Jesus' death, to reflect upon the crucifixion, an event central to our understanding of God and to what it means to be a Christian.

That we worship Christ crucified means that we do not participate in triumphalism.

That is, we do not seek power and dominance.

In fact, Jesus rejected power when tempted in the wilderness.

We are not about superiority or worldly success.

We seek to practice humility, love, compassion, integrity, those things that Jesus demonstrated for us to the very end.

He was supposed to be the final offering, the last scapegoat, yet we continue to scapegoat.

It seems there always was and always will be a large number of people who prefer pointing the finger over humble self-awareness.

Jesus, by his very nature, was a challenge to those who chose the easy path of self-delusion.

When someone like Jesus appears who prefers truth to delusion, he stings our consciences.

Some repent, change their ways.

Many walk away.

Some retaliate.

We Christians seek to take the more difficult, yet more rewarding path that eventually leads out of the sin of self-delusion, fear, guilt, and shame to freedom, self-acceptance, humility.

We each have things that we must accept, crosses that we must bear along the way.

Beware those who seek to guilt, shame, or frighten you.

The crucifixion was not necessary, but it was inevitable.

The claim that it was necessary in some cosmic sense is just one more way of removing any responsibility from ourselves.

It suggests that Jesus did everything needed, that Jesus worked the magic, and all we have to do is say yes.

Jesus' accepting the crucifixion was not necessary, but was significant to our salvation in that, had Jesus simply given up and moved to Egypt, he would have sold out his message.

We would have never heard of him, and that would have been a great loss for those who want to follow a more Godly path.

Knowing that, he persevered to the end.

We worship Christ crucified.