

That you may know how much God loves you

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

At the beginning of Lent we ask what the purpose of the crucifixion was. We have discovered four different perspectives on the meaning of the crucifixion. First, Jesus shows love in a way that people can understand (John 15:13). If we show love by giving gifts to others, the greatest gift that can be given is one's own life.

Second, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). The sin of the world is rooted in unbelief. The message of Jesus' death takes away sin by revealing the love of God that evokes faith. When faith is evoked, sin is removed. God is satisfied when we are brought back into relationship with Him.

Third, the death of Jesus means victory over evil. The evil one works through deception, hatred, and death. Therefore, the crucifixion overcomes the Devil by revealing the truth and love of God that brings life. The ruler of this world is cast out (exorcism) when the son of God was lifted up.

Fourth, the crucifixion reveals the glory of God. Through the miracles he performed during his ministry, Jesus revealed God's glory by revealing the scope of divine power. Through his crucifixion, Jesus revealed God's glory (John 12:32). In John's gospel there is no darkness, no earthquakes, no manifestations, nothing. All one sees is Jesus dying on the cross to reveal his love. Talk about glorious. Here are four ways to understand the cross and how much God loves you.

Come and join us during Holy Week. Sing Hosanna with us on Palm Sunday. Attend the Maundy Thursday service and hear Jesus' command to love one another. Come to the Good Friday service and learn why we call it Good. Join us on Saturday to celebrate the Easter Vigil. Finally, come Easter morning and hear again about the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is risen!

In your service,
Pastor Russell Lackey