



April 3, 2025

The Women of Easter

Chapter 7 – At the Cross Her Station Keeping

Social Time

Thanks to those who brought treats!

Bible Study Business

Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List

Opening Prayer

Hymns – Lisa Schlatterbeck

ELW 338 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ELW 802 *Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus*

Mary Did You Know? – Alternate lyrics (attached)

Scripture and Discussion

1. As you read this chapter, focusing on the women who were with Jesus at the time of his crucifixion and in the hours that followed, what do you think it would have been like for them?
 - a. What new understandings did you get from reading and thinking about this chapter?
 2. Throughout the crucifixion story are sprinkled what are traditionally called the Seven Last Words of Christ:
 - "Father Forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)
 - "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)
 - "Woman here is your son," and to John, "Here is your mother." (John 19:26-27)
 - "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)
 - "I am thirst." (John 19:28)
 - "It is finished." (John 19:30)
 - "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." (Luke 23:46)
- Choose one of these seven statements that is especially meaningful to you and describe:
- a. Who was Jesus speaking to?
 - b. What does this statement reveal about Jesus?
 - c. Why is it important today?

John 19:25b (pp. 145-150)

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

3. How do you think it comforted Mary to have her sister with her during this dark time?
4. Our author writes, "When an enemy of the state was crucified, it was unsafe for family and friends to tarry nearby lest they be given the same terrible punishment for their innocent support of the condemned" (p. 149).
 - a. What risk do you think these women took by being at the foot of the cross during Jesus' execution?
5. When have you been fearful of repercussions for doing what you know you have to do, or doing what you believe is right?
 - a. How have you handled that fear?

John 19:26 (pp. 151-152)

²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

6. What difference did these words of Jesus from the cross make for Mary and for John?

Matthew 27:45 (pp. 152-153)

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

7. What do you think it was like for people experiencing this strange natural phenomenon of darkness in the middle of the day during Jesus' crucifixion?
 - a. How did they interpret it?
 - b. How do you understand it?

Psalms 22 attached – Read Responsively

8. While on the cross Jesus spoke the first line of Psalm 22 saying, "My God, my God, Why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46)
 - a. How do you think Jesus was feeling when he said these words?
 - b. What similarities do you notice between what the psalmist writes and the experience of Jesus on the cross?
 - c. How does the tone of this psalm change from beginning to end?
 - d. Knowing that Jesus knew this whole psalm, what hope may Jesus have taken from these words?

John 19:28-41 (pp. 154-156)

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

9. Our author writes, "To the very end Jesus demonstrated His sovereignty. When He said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23:46) He alone chose the time of his death. His life was not taken but given then entrusted to His Father."
 - a. Do you agree?
 - b. What is the significance of this?

Luke 23:55-56

⁵⁵The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Mark 16:1

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him.

- c. When he breathed his last, the women were still there. When his body was taken down from the cross, the women were still there. And when His body was laid in a tomb, the women were still there.
 - a. Why do you think the women remained by his side to the very end?
 - b. What inspiration do these women provide for us today?

Closing Litany

Lord, when we feel sorry for ourselves
and think we have sacrificed so much for others,
Remind us of what you did for us on the cross.

Lord, when our patience wears thin
and we are ready to give up,
**Speak to us through the example
of your endurance on the cross.**

Lord, when we get angry and feel like fighting back
against those who would be our enemies,
**Help us remember your words to your enemies
from the cross, "Father forgive."**

Lord, whenever we suffer in any way,
Keep us near the cross.

Lord, when we are afraid to stand up
for what is true and honorable,
**Strengthen us with the courage
with which you went to the cross.**

Lord, when we come to the times of death,
**Uphold us with the assurance
that life did not end for you on the cross.**

**Fill us with the hope of resurrection and new life
which your cross continues to teach us each day. Amen.**

Written by Rev. M. Ashley Grant of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich

Birthdays

Lord's Prayer

Upcoming Schedule

Date	Pages	Topic
4/10	167-194	<i>Women of Easter 8 – I Know that My Redeemer Lives</i>
4/17		Holy Week – No Bible Study
4/24		Pastor Marla on vacation Pastor Elaine to lead Bible Study on the topic of Prayer
		During May continue with <i>Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith</i>
5/1	10-12	Assemblies of God (Pentecostal)
5/8	114-116	Salvation Army
5/15	76-81	Judaism
5/22		Pre-Memorial Day Weekend – No Bible Study
5/29	67-71	Islam
		Summer series - <i>Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit</i>

Mary Did You Know?

Alternate Lyrics

Lyrics by Bishop Jennifer Henry (inspired by the popular song of the same name) who posted these alternative lyrics to *Mary Did You Know* believing they are more congruent with Luke 1 than the original.

Verse 1

Mary did you know,
that your ancient words
would still leap off our pages?

Mary did you know,
that your spirit song
would echo through the ages?

Did you know that your holy cry
would be subversive word,
that the tyrants would be trembling
when they know your truth is heard?

Verse 2

Mary did you know,
that your lullaby
would stir your own Child's passion?

Mary did you know,
that your song inspires
the work of liberation?

Did you know that your Jubilee
is hope within the heart
of all who dream of justice,
who yearn for it to start?

Bridge

The truth will teach, the drum will sound,
healing for the pain
The poor will rise, the rich will fall. Hope
will live again!

Verse 3

Mary did you know,
that we hear your voice
for healing of the nations?

Mary did you know,
your unsettling cry
can help renew creation?

Do you know, that we need your faith,
the confidence of you,
May the God that you believe in,
be so true.

Psalm 22 – A Psalm of David (NIV)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

² **My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.**

³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.

⁴ **In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.**

⁵ To you they cried out and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶ **But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.**

⁷ All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

⁸ **“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,
“let the LORD rescue him.**

**Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.”**

⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb;
you made me trust in you, even at my
mother’s breast.

¹⁰ **From birth I was cast on you;
from my mother’s womb
you have been my God.**

¹¹ Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

¹² **Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.**

¹³ Roaring lions that tear their prey
open their mouths wide against me.

¹⁴ **I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.**

**My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.**

¹⁵ My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ **Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.**

¹⁷ All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.

¹⁸ **They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.**

¹⁹ But you, LORD, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

²⁰ **Deliver me from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.**

²¹ Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

²² **I will declare your name to my people;
in the assembly I will praise you.**

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

²⁴ **For he has not despised or scorned
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.**

²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the
great assembly;
before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

²⁶ **The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!**

²⁷ All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,

²⁸ **for dominion belongs to the LORD
and he rules over the nations.**

²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him
those who cannot keep themselves alive.

³⁰ **Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.**

³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it!