

Dear friends,

Let's be honest... When life is hectic and busy, the last thing you might want to do is spend more time at church.

I want to share three reasons with you why I think it's worth making the extra effort to set aside time to join us during Holy Week this year.

### **So, just what is Holy Week?**

Holy Week, or as it was known in ancient times, 'Great Week', is the period between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Historically, people would attend church each day and read Bible passages that would track the days before Jesus' death and resurrection.

In ancient times this practice helped Christians reconnect with the 'passion of Christ'. It was a deeply powerful and profound experience.

### **Three reasons why I think you should come:**

#### 1. We're part of something global

Think of the millions and millions of Christians in all kinds of contexts setting aside time during Holy Week to pray and worship Jesus. There's something powerful and prophetic about joining in with what the Lord is doing around the world.

#### 2. It's healing for the soul to embrace silence

Holy Week is often associated with silence and solemnity. In a church like ours which is busy and noisy, it can be a healthy thing to sit in silence in the presence of God from time to time. I also think it's good to embrace and appreciate styles of worship that are not natural to us or our preference. It reminds us that worship is not primarily for us; it's for Him.

#### 3. Get in touch with your senses

Every week in church we talk about Jesus's death and resurrection. We sing it. We say it in liturgy. We (hopefully) talk about it in sermons. It's the central feature of our faith. However, there is something powerful about kneeling before the cross. I'd seen people holding and touching the Lent cross at the front of church but I didn't think anything of it, until I did it! Touching that rough wood was a powerful experience. It connected with my senses in a way that it ordinarily wouldn't have.

So may I invite you to join me and our church family as we journey through Holy Week together.

Tom