

Good Friday - April 10

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A 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. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:28-30 (NRSV)

"Please don't make me do this any more. Don't get me wrong, I love you so much. But I've had a good life, I have a wonderful family, I am tired and in pain." These words from my mom were hard for my sister and me to hear, but they were comforting in the end. These words of proclamation, thankfulness and direction guided our path for the next month until my mom's death. Each time a decision needed to be made, it was made with the guidance of my mom's words. She was ready to leave this earth and go to be with God.

It is hard for most of us to imagine unless we've walked this path with a loved one. But we are drawn to God, especially at the last. And in fact, we are drawn to God in the fullness of our lives also, but we are usually so busy and distracted that we miss the moments of being drawn in to God's love and presence.

As Jesus hung on the cross, he gave us the words, the comfort and courage to face our hardest days by drawing close to God. The goodness of God and the fact that God believes we are good invite us into this holy relationship.

Good Friday. How can it possibly be good? It is good because God is there. And God is longing to be in relationship with us. It is good because in Jesus' act of willingly dying for us, we are made whole. Why? For the purpose of helping others become whole. So be it.

Kim

Prayer: Lord, help us remember that You love us and encourage us to draw close to You always. Amen.