

## **Broken Open: A Holy Week Retreat Experience**

Today is Holy Saturday. My name is Karina Comes and I am a fourth year in the Biology program. Our theme today is Living Jesus's Legacy of Hope and Love.

As I consider Holy Saturday, I imagine the huge loss the disciples faced. I think about what it means to say goodbye. As we have all learned in the year since the pandemic started, we might not always have the chance to goodbye to our time spent together, goodbye to those we know and love, or even to whole communities, in the ways we would like to. I often think about how long it's been since I've seen a lot of the familiar faces of the Chapel: the community I've been able to be part of these last few years, a community that I treasure. Some days I'll think about the faces of those I miss and imagine coming back to that space sometime in the future, knowing I would be welcomed with love. That communal love is what sustains me now.

In moments of loss, grief, and goodbye, we somehow find our way back to one another, living as best we can, the legacy left to us. I imagine that Jesus' disciples returned to each other after his crucifixion and realized that their "normal" was now gone. After spending time sharing stories, remembering lessons, crying, hugging, just being with each other, I also like to think that the disciples worked out a way to live their lives in this new normal and how they would do that together in their unknown future, living the way that Jesus did, in Jesus' way. The women that went to visit the tomb of Jesus the next morning teach me how to live in the unknown. I see them

going about their duties with care, just as they normally would, simply wanting to tend to Jesus' body with love. How might we be called to live each moment with care and love, even as we face grief, loss, and the unknown?

This last quarter in particular, I found myself, like the disciples, having to face a sudden goodbye when I experienced the passing of my grandfather. Just how the disciples were all somehow drawn back to each other, much of my family was too. I was blessed with being able to see my family in the days after my grandfather passed away. I realized it was one of the first time we had all been together like that in a long time, brought together because of his death. As sad as it was, I'm still really thankful we all got to be together despite the reason, so we could celebrate life and find connection and love in the shadow of death. In the days since, I have been wondering how I could celebrate my grandfather's life and to live his legacy, or all the lessons and values that I learned from him, in my own future. This is a way we carry a sense of the living memory of those who have gone before us, just as we hope that those who come after us – generations after us even – might also live with our memory – carrying our lessons, sharing our stories, memories, or more.

Like the disciples, as Christians we are called to be people who celebrate Jesus' life, people who live with love because they have been transformed by Jesus' legacy. We must live each day with a sense of present hope. This includes anticipating a future that is better than our current situation, for the generations to come. Dreaming and acting for a world that is closer to God's dream for us – the Kingdom of God which Jesus lived and died for.

While we hope for a better future than the one we are currently living in, we also know that a lot of what we are grateful for is thanks to the loving and hopeful work of many who have come before us. Just as we are a product of the past, the future will emerge from how we act now. We must act with care and with love—living as if the kingdom of God is already here.

Consider these reflection questions today:

- How might we cultivate gratitude for our ancestors who have worked for the present we enjoy?
- What of their lessons and legacy do you want to live now?
- What legacy do we want to cultivate and be remembered for by our descendants?
- How are we being called to live with hope and love, to live as people transformed by Jesus' legacy?