

Good Friday Meditation April 22, 2011, Salem United Church of Christ, Denver, CO

It's Friday. Jesus is arrested in the garden where he was praying. But Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. The disciples are hiding, and Peter's denying that he knows the Lord. But Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. Jesus is standing before the high priest of Israel, silent as a lamb before the slaughter. But Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. Jesus is beaten, mocked and spit upon. But Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. Those Roman soldiers are flogging our Lord with a leather scourge that has bits of bones and glass and metal, tearing at his flesh. But Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. The Son of Man stands firm as they press the crown of thorns down into his brow. But Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. See him walking to Calvary, the blood dripping from his body. See the cross crashing down on his back as he stumbles beneath the load. It's Friday; but Sunday's a coming.

"It's Friday. See those Roman soldiers driving the nails into the feet and hands of my Lord. Hear my Jesus cry, 'Father, forgive them.' It's Friday; but Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. Jesus is hanging on the cross, bloody and dying. But Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. The sky grows dark, the earth begins to tremble and he who knew no sin became sin for us. Holy God, who will not abide with sin, pours out his wrath on that perfect sacrificial lamb who cries out, 'My God, My God. Why hast thou forsaken me?' What a horrible cry. But Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. And at the moment of Jesus' death, the veil of the temple that separates sinful man from holy God was torn from the top to the bottom because Sunday's coming.

"It's Friday. Jesus is hanging on the cross, heaven is weeping and hell is partying. But that's because it's Friday, and they don't know it, but Sunday's a coming."