



Approaching Holy Week - A Reflection by Pat Marrin

The genealogy of Jesus begins with Adam in Luke's Gospel, and with Abraham in Matthew. For John, Jesus is the Son of God whose coming was signalled from the beginning of time. Creation itself was for this purpose, to reveal God's plan in Jesus Christ. The Bible is the greatest story ever told because it is the one story that encompasses all others and determines the fate of all our hopes and dreams.

Holy Week is our window into this immense mystery. This year it unfolds in unthinkable circumstances. Human frailty and folly have been exposed by a microscopic grim reaper circling the world whose harvest is altering the landscape of our assumptions and expectations for the future of the global community and the planet itself. Our normalcy has been thrust back to ground zero, like the desert floor beneath a starry night where Abraham said yes to a future he would not live to see. Yet he believed, and it was accounted deep enough to be the foundation of our faith, a universal covenant with God that promises us, despite the evidence, that the story we are living will end well and in glory.

Lent this year began as it always does, with ashes and good intentions. It will end as Easter coincides with projected losses that will touch every continent, country, community and family. Our lives will be plunged into the waters of Baptism as never before. Our world will know the ancient truth of the Paschal Mystery, that everything, natural and spiritual, advances by passing through death to new life.

Easter is proclaimed in darkness with the lighting of a single candle that leads us in procession toward hope. Our response to this "Light of Christ" is simply, "Thanks be to God."
