

April 13,14 2019

“The Vulnerable Way”
Matthew 27:26–49

Message by Jennifer Roth
Worship led by Natalie Folkert

Music:

The Passion	Hosanna	O Praise The Name
Death Arrested	Living Hope	

Sermon:

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. The only place outside Heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all the dangers and perturbations of love is Hell.

C.S. Lewis

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who *for the joy set before him* endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:2

Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to *adopt us into his own family* by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.
Ephesians 1:4-5

You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has *reconciled you to himself* through the death of Christ in his physical body.
Colossians 1:21

God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear.
1 John 4:16, 18

Trust

Do you know the Father?

What would it take to know his nature and character more deeply?

Humility

Are you willing to be seen in both strength and weakness?

What would it take to stop maintaining the image you want others to see?

Love

Is love worth the risk of pain and loss?

What would it take to bring down the walls of self-protection and live with an open heart?