

## The Great Unveiling

Tonight is the night of the great unveiling.

If you have thought of God as the angry god; if you have thought of God as the one who just can't wait to punish; if you have thought of God as one who is ready to wipe out half the human race; then for you, tonight is the great unveiling.

Tonight, the second person of the Trinity hangs on a tree to his death.

We have done our worst to him after he has given his best to us.

He thirsts.

Yet there are no throngs of heaven's armies swooping in for the kill.

There is only forgiveness; there is only love.

And this, my friends, is the great unveiling.

The god of our patriotic wars, the god who loves some and hates others, the god who is on the rampage against those who are different; that god is revealed tonight as nothing more than a mirror; a mirror reflecting the collective face of humanity.

That god is the god made in our image: in order to justify our rage; in order to justify our schemes.

The true God, the Living God, the God who is the creator of all things; hangs on the tree, and simply says "Forgive them."

For centuries before Jesus, and sadly, for centuries thereafter, we have created God in our own image - and used that image of God to justify all kinds of horror.

On Good Friday we come face to face with the true nature of God: and that true nature is one of gracious self-giving.

The true nature of God is gracious self-giving.

+amen

