



## The Cathedral of St. Andrew - Honolulu

### Sermon: Year A – Good Friday, April 14, 2017

The Reverend Canon R. K. “Moki” Hino,

Crucifixion is alive and well in our midst, whether it be metaphorical or whether it be literal; crucifixion is alive and well in our midst.

The gruesome images on television and in the newspapers over the past week of a man bleeding from the mouth after being dragged off an airplane, or of a teacher and her students who were gunned down in a classroom, or of children and civilians in Syria who were the victims of a Sarin gas attack; the gruesome images prove to us the crucifixion is alive and well in our midst.

Our Baptismal Covenant calls us to seek and serve Christ in all persons. And so, it seems especially apropos to bring to mind the face of the man being dragged off the airplane, the faces of the teacher and her students, and the faces of those children and civilians in Syria; and to actually see, to notice, and to acknowledge the suffering of Christ in the countenance on those faces.

Sadly, we don't yet live in a world where there is no suffering; and in that suffering, we not only behold the suffering of Christ, we take part in it, the way that man being dragged off the airplane takes part in it, the way that teacher and her students take part in it, and the way those children and civilians in Syria are take part in it, bearing in mind that (for some reason) we have to experience suffering before we can transcend it in the resurrection that we know will come; will come for you, will come for me, will come for that man on the airplane, will come for that teacher and her students, and will come for those suffering children and civilians in Syria.

We have faith that that time will come, but not today. Today we sit at the foot of the cross, or perhaps our life's circumstances actually put us on the cross.

And if Jesus himself went to the cross to bring about salvation and world peace, then you and I have a lot of work to do this Holy Week – we have a lot of work to do to bring that about with him, and we are called to do it through our thoughts, our words, and our deeds; by promising yet again to see can serve Christ in all persons, by promising yet again to respect the dignity of every human being, by promising yet again to strive for justice and peace among all people, including people being dragged off airplanes, teachers and students who are gunned down, and children and civilians who succumb to Sarin gas; and anyone who we see crucified in our midst today in 2017; whether it be in the form of domestic violence and abuse, exploitation of those weaker than ourselves, economic injustice, what is the victimizing of innocent children at the hands of political exploitation. We still have a lot of work to do. Crucifixion is alive and well in our midst. And today we sit at the foot of the cross.

Let us pray:

Most holy and gracious God, as we experience yet again crucifixion of your son, open our eyes to the crucifixion in our midst and give us the content of character and strength and conviction to reach out, to never settle for things the way they are, and to strive for a world of justice and a kingdom of peace; a world where there is crucifixion no more. *Amen.*