



St Marylebone
Parish Church

Holy Tuesday 2019 6pm Holy Eucharist

As the darkness falls. Over London tonight, over our Lenten journey as we approach the Great Three Days of the Passover of the Lord, over that little house and the upper room where Jesus is eating with His disciples in today's Gospel. Darkness is falling in Judas' grim mission, in S. Peter's stupid eagerness. Our eyes are turning to the Cross of Jesus, when, very soon, the whole world will go dark; when Him whose name is Love will be rejected and killed.

And yet, S. John as ever, speaks of *doxa* 'glory'. The Prophet Isaiah speaks of a 'light of the nations', 'salvation reaching the ends of the earth'.

The tension between these might seem unbearable. And yet, we know that as we kneel before the Cross of the Lord on Good Friday it will all be there. Intermingled in the blood and sweat and faeces of the crucified criminal is unquenchable life, unending forgiveness and unstoppable love.

The Cross of Jesus, to which we come in this and every Eucharist, will not tidy up Judas's betrayal, it will not undo Peter's pride, it cannot cancel out the brutality of *itself*. But it will *overcome* all these things and all the darkness of our humanity then and now – in us and in our world as darkness falls tonight. The Cross of Jesus does not erase or tidy, much much more, it **redeems**. As darkness falls, let us pledge ourselves to enter without pretense like Peter, without ulterior motives like Judas and without holding back. It is not tidy, or glib, or simple, it is not without cost; our **redemption** is at hand. Let that be at the forefront of our minds, let that define us, as darkness falls.