Tracey Tidd:

Good morning. Allow me to share with you a few thoughts this morning. Have you ever asked yourself the question, especially in these recent days, what day is it? In these last weeks of social distancing and working from home, staying at home for the most part, weekly routines are not what they used to be and they have been disrupted and it's not what we are used to. Trying to remember the day can be challenging at times and I know it has been challenging for myself as I work from home, but prior to these recent weeks, for many the work and the school week began with a Monday and ended with a Friday and then followed by the weekend, where activities and commitments and events that took place on Saturdays and Sundays. I don't know if you've heard this phrase before but I have heard this phrase many times: TGIF, thank God it's Friday. Well let me remind you in case you have lost track of time, it is Friday, but more than that, it is Good Friday, and I'm sure that you would say with me, if ever we needed Good Friday, it is now.

Tracey Tidd:

We can TGIGF, we can thank God it's Good Friday, and Good Friday is a day when Christians all around the world gather, but we're not gathering physically this morning, but we are gathering remotely this morning, and we pause and we reflect and we remember in grateful worship and Thanksgiving, the willing sacrifice that was made on our behalf, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the son of God, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Well, first of all today we thank God it's Good Friday, because Good Friday reminds us of the faithfulness of God to his word, whatever the cost. In these days that we are living in, there is so much uncertainty, but we can trust on the faithfulness of God and his word. In the opening chapters of Genesis, in the garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve had disobeyed God and they were being driven from the garden, separated from God because of their sin, but God made a promise in Genesis chapter three, a promise to redeem the world and restore the opportunity for men and women to be in a relationship with him, no longer separated, and God said to the serpent in the garden, he said this: "I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers, and he will crush your head and you will strike his heels."

Tracey Tidd:

You see, here God declares he had a plan, and throughout the pages of the Old Testament, he continued to give glimpses of how that plan would unfold, how he would send a Messiah who would suffer, be rejected, and then later killed. The gospel writers in their accounts of the life and death and resurrection of Jesus, God's son, drew attention to the fulfillment of prophecy as recorded for us in the Old Testament. Well, Good Friday sends a clear message for us that God is faithful to his word. He loved the world. For God so loved the world and has done what he has promised, whatever it would take to redeem the world and save anyone who would believe in him. Well, thank God it is Good Friday, and we need to be reminded that God is faithful to his word. He has made relationship with him through Jesus possible for all, just as he has promised.

Tracey Tidd:

If God has been faithful to that promise, which cost him his very own son's life, then we can have the confidence that Jesus is faithful to all his promises. For his word, for us today, is reliable, and secondly, we thank God it's Good Friday because Good Friday brings perspective to life. Good Friday brings perspective to our lives. Well, what seemed like the worst day possible for the disciples, the day at the end of a week of such unexpected events would lead into a day beyond the disciples' wildest expectations in that moment, and we know that Good Friday comes Easter. We know that Good Friday gives us a perspective to live by, but that without tragedy, triumph can come, that out of the darkness dawns a bright morning light, that beyond death, resurrection to life, life eternal, that what the enemy might have intended to be defeating, God brings the ultimate and final victory.

Tracey Tidd:

If ever we needed a Good Friday, it is now. This Good Friday is different from any Good Friday that we have experienced in the past, but we are reminded today that God is faithful to his word. He promised to make a way for all to have a life abundant and life eternal, and Good Friday proves the depths to which God will go to to keep his word. Jesus willingly died, not only for you and for I, but all who would believe in him can have this eternal life that he has promised us. You see, Good Friday is a declaration from God that he will be faithful to all he has promised.

Tracey Tidd:

Let us live with the confident perspective that Good Friday brings not only to our lives, but to the world in which we live. A very familiar passage of scripture that we have quoted, I'm sure many times over and over again, "We know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him and have been called according to his purpose," and Good Friday is evidence of that promise. So can I suggest for each of us who are listening this morning, let's shout it out. "Thank God it is Good Friday!" There is a world all around us that needs to hear this more so now than ever before. May God bless you and may you have a blessed day.