

Maundy Thursday 2020

Reflection – ‘And we slept’

Rev Ruth Moriarty

Reading: Mark 14.32-42 - *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane*

He said stay here and keep watch
We definitely did half of what he asked

He said stay here,
And we did, rooted to that very spot

He said keep watch
And we did not, keep watch.

He said all things are possible with God,
But we slept.

He was overcome with sorrow thrice
And we slept.

He said not what I want but what you want
And we slept.

He asked us to see what was really happening
And we slept.

He asked us to be attentive in prayer
And we slept

He asked us to be watchful
And we slept

He asked us not to fall into temptation
And we slept.

I've been known to fall asleep in strange places,
like in the middle of a storm on a tiny boat.

So I understand that sometimes sleep
is what we want.

I understand that our bodies
can plead for rest, rest, rest.

But I asked for them to keep watch and stay
because I needed them.

I asked for them to keep watch
because I knew what was happening

I asked for them to keep watch
because the battle was about to begin.

Keep watch and pray I said,
because I knew they would need God's strength too. for

All I could see
was sorrow ahead

All I could feel
was fear of separation from God

All I could ask
was take this cup away from me.

I felt quite alone.
I didn't have a plan b.

So I had to say
'yet not what I want but what you want'

And they slept.
They literally couldn't keep their eyes open.

Wake up church,
It's time to keep your eyes open !
Wake up o sleepers,
It's time to pray and wait on the lord
Wake up
for God is at work

Don't be dozy.
Be on the look-out,

Look for what God is doing
and wake everyone else up.

How can you sleep in these times?
How can you have a little rest in these days?

If I've asked you to be watchful and pray,
Would you do that please?

I know you've stayed
where I asked you to be,

But won't you watch for me too?
watch and pray with your eyes wide open

Might you pray for those in sorrow

Might you pray for those
who are anguished in heart

and might you pray for those
struggling with their cross to bear

and then the Lord
will show you what he can do.

Then with your eyes open,
fully awake,

might you know

God's leading in your life
and in your community
and in our world.