

**Good Friday Reflections**  
**Old First Reformed United Church of Christ**  
**April 18, 2014**

**Delilah M**

*"Woman, behold thy son." (John 19:26)*



In modern day terms, the crucifixion of Jesus was a lynching. Jesus was accused falsely and punished harshly for doing good. He did no wrong!

No doubt the people who were his accusers never tried to understand Jesus. They were jealous of his popularity and success. Had they tried to understand his message, they might have joined him.

Mary knew that Jesus was special from his early life. She had observed him as different from a very young child .

Now, on the day of his crucifixion when crowds had gathered and followed him, she could only watch with a range of emotions: from anger and sadness to rage and so many questions:

Why—he has done no wrong?

What can I do to stop this?

What does all of this mean?

How will things be different in the world without him?

These same questions arise every day with parents as our young men and women are being slain for no apparent reason.

Our emotions range from anger and sadness, to ambiguity and rage.

When will it stop?

Why my child?

Mary probably said, like many modern day parents "leave him alone, take me instead."

When Jesus recognized her from the cross, and spoke to her directly, saying "Woman, behold thy son" maybe she could somehow look back on his life and appreciate his contribution to the world, and somehow through her pain

she could feel a little sense of relief. But no, it is too hard, and neither she nor we who believe will forget.

What an awful experience for a mother to witness. Let us all make a commitment to help stop the violence in our world.