

John 19:16-30 "The Last Sign"

Read John 19:16-30a

1. Describe your mental picture of the crucifixion. What does the cross look like? How high is it? What does Jesus look like? Where are the soldiers, Mary and the other women, John the beloved disciple? Do you envision any other people in the scene? Are any parts especially vivid or hazy? Have any particular artistic representations influenced you?
2. Why did the sermon suggest that humiliation and degradation were at the essence of the meaning of the crucifixion for us—that we are saved by its obscenity? Was this hard to hear? What does it mean that the Son of God voluntarily endured this? Why does the sermon suggest it is hard to look at the cross?
3. Why do you think John emphasizes the aspects of the crucifixion that he does: the sign on the cross, the gambling for Jesus' clothes, the pairing of Mary and John, the drink of water?
4. "It is finished." What is "it"?