

JESUS CHRIST

The traditional task of a Protestant preacher is to "preach Christ and him crucified." But what that means is very problematic for many people in Pilgrim Church. It is also problematic for the preacher who continues to struggle with "the Christological question."

No less than three "pulpit probes" last winter dealt with the Atonement. Other sermons also dealt directly or indirectly with the meaning of Jesus Christ for us. The two included here speak of the crucified Christ in rather contrasting ways.

The first, "My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?" was actually delivered in the house of worship belonging to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. However, it was preached as part of a Good Friday service shared in by Pilgrim Church, and thus I have included it here. I must say, however, that I saw very few Pilgrims out there that day. The day itself was not forbidding, but the previous week, which included two blizzards, was rather overwhelming. All through the service we heard the heavy dripping of water through the high gothic roof into baking pans placed in the front pews.

I suppose the text that I was assigned that day is one of the most worrisome to most Christians. I have been forced to tackle it before, and though I try a different angle each time, I am the one who always gets thrown.

"As a Clown" is an Advent sermon. In recent months I had been at work on a personal project dealing with the theology of humor. The sermon relating the clown image to Christ grows out of those researches and reflections.