

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Friday 2nd April 2021 – Good Friday

We gather in silence for our Good Friday Service. Thank you for joining us via Zoom or YouTube.

Please join in the text in **bold** print.

Gathering

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All **And also with you.**

Let us take an extended period of silence, to stand at the foot of the cross, as so many have during this year of pandemic, and to contemplate the sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus, the Christ.

We will have an extended period of silence for private contemplation and prayer

Opening Prayer (Collect)

Let us pray for a closer union with Christ in his suffering and in his glory:

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn: There is a green hill far away *(sung by St. Martin's Singers)*

- 1** There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.
- 2** We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear,
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.
- 3** He died that we might be forgiven,
he died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.

- 4 **There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.**
- 5 **O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.**

Cecil Frances Alexander (née Humphreys) (1818-1895)

Passion Gospel: (John 18 : 1 – 19 : 42)

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Due to COVID restrictions, we have recorded our Passion Reading. This will be read by several voices, taking the parts of characters in the passion story.

This is the Passion of the Lord.

Talk

Proclamation of the Cross

This is the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

All Come, let us worship.

You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation;
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God.

**All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

To him who loves us
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us a kingdom of priests
to stand and serve before our God;

**All to him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honour, glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Intercessions

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father for people everywhere according to their needs.

Reader: Let us pray for the Church of God throughout the world:
for unity in faith, in witness and in service,
for bishops and other ministers, and those whom they serve,
for *Andrew and Jo*, our bishops, and the people of this diocese,
for all Christians in this place,
for those to be baptized,
for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith,
that God will confirm his Church in faith,
increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Reader: Let us pray for the nations of the world and their leaders:
for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parliaments of this land,
for those who administer the law and all who serve in public office,
for all who strive for justice and reconciliation,
that by God's help the world may live in peace and freedom.

Most gracious God and Father,
in whose will is our peace,
turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself,
that by the power of your Spirit
the peace which is founded on justice
may be established throughout the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Reader Let us pray for God's ancient people, the Jews,
the first to hear his word:
for greater understanding between Christian and Jew,
for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart,
that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant
and to grow in the love of his name.

Lord God of Abraham,
bless the children of your covenant, both Jew and Christian;
take from us all blindness and bitterness of heart,
and hasten the coming of your kingdom,
when the Gentiles shall be gathered in,
all Israel shall be saved,
and we shall dwell together in mutual love and peace
under the one God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

Reader Let us pray for those who do not believe the gospel of Christ:
for those who have not heard the message of salvation,
for all who have lost faith,
for the contemptuous and scornful,
for those who are enemies of Christ and persecute those who follow him,
for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified,
that God will open their hearts to the truth
and lead them to faith and obedience.

Merciful God,
creator of all the people of the earth,
have compassion on all who do not know you,
and by the preaching of your gospel with grace and power,
gather them into the one fold of the one Shepherd;
Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Reader Let us pray for all those who suffer:
for those who are deprived and oppressed,
for all who are sick,
for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear,
for prisoners, captives and refugees,
for the victims of false accusations and violence,
for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them,
that God in his mercy will sustain them
with the knowledge of his love.

Almighty and everlasting God,
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Reader Let us commend ourselves and all God's children to his unfailing love,
and pray for the grace of a holy life,

that, with all who have died in the peace of Christ,
we may come to the fullness of eternal life
and the joy of the resurrection.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery,
and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence
carry out the work of our salvation:
and let the whole world feel and see
that things which were cast down are being raised up
and things which had grown old are being made new
and that all things are returning to perfection
through him from whom they took their origin,
even Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who
sin against us.**

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn: When I survey the wondrous cross *(Sung by St. Martin's Singers)*

**1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the cross of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them through his blood.**

- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 His dying crimson, like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.
- 5 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Notices

Closing Prayer

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen

An important feature of the Good Friday service is that we arrive in silence and depart in silence. Our service therefore does not have a formal end but instead we depart into a period of waiting and expectation of the resurrection.

Please join us on Easter Sunday at 10am for the final part of the story!