

# Good Friday

## Liturgy of the Cross with Saint Luke's Passion

*This Good Friday service continues from last night's Maundy Thursday service.*

*The previous service ended in silence – and so, this one begins in silence.*

*For this service to truly speak to us, it relies not so much on the words spoken, but on what we think and feel. It invites us to engage our senses, our imaginations, and our creativity, so that we may draw the deepest personal and spiritual meaning from each part of the liturgy and from the significance of this day.*

*The Ministers enter in Silence (all kneel or sit for a time of silent prayer)*

### Opening Prayer

God of love  
from Palm Sunday to Good Friday  
we follow the last few days of Jesus,  
in Jerusalem:  
a journey towards death,  
a journey towards eternal life,  
a journey of love.  
Jesus' journey is also our journey.  
**God of love,  
may we look with eyes of compassion  
on this journey  
and see our own hopes and challenges  
in the journey of Jesus.  
Amen.**



### Scripture Sentence – John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

## Opening Hymn - Were You There

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*American folk hymn*

## Saint Luke's Passion

*All Sit. The Congregation is invited to read the parts in bold marked "all".  
The parts for the narrator, Jesus and other characters will be read by individual readers.*

Hear The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke  
**All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## NARRATOR :

Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives;  
and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to  
them –

**JESUS :**

Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

**NARRATOR :**

Then he withdrew from them – about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed –

**JESUS :**

Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.

**NARRATOR :**

Then an angel from heaven appeared to him, and gave him strength. In his anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples, and found them sleeping, because of grief, and he said to them –

**JESUS :**

Why are you sleeping?

Get up, and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.

**NARRATOR :**

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas – one of the twelve – was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him –

**JESUS :**

Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?

**NARRATOR :**

When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked –

**ALL :**

**Lord, should we strike with the sword?**

**NARRATOR :**

Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said –

**JESUS :**

No more of this!

**NARRATOR :**

And he touched his ear, and healed him.

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police,  
and the elders who had come for him –

**JESUS :**

Have you come out with swords and clubs, as if I were a bandit?  
When I was with you – day after day, in the temple – you did not lay  
hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!

**NARRATOR :**

Then they seized him, and led him away,  
bringing him into the high priest's house.  
But Peter was following at a distance.  
When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard,  
and sat down together, Peter sat among them.  
Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said

**ACCUSER 1 :**

This man also was with him.

**NARRATOR :**

But he denied it, saying –

**PETER :**

Woman, I do not know him.

**NARRATOR :**

A little later, someone else – on seeing him – said –

**ACCUSER 2 :**

You also are one of them.

**NARRATOR :**

But Peter said –

**PETER :**

I am not!

**NARRATOR :**

Then, about an hour later, still another kept insisting –

**ACCUSER 3 :**

Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.

**NARRATOR :**

But Peter said –

**PETER :**

I do not know what you are talking about!

**NARRATOR :**

At that moment – while he was still speaking – the cock crowed.

The Lord turned and looked at Peter.

Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him,

"Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times."

And he went out and wept bitterly.

Now the men, who were holding Jesus, began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him –

**ALL :**

**Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?**

**NARRATOR :**

They kept heaping many other insults on him.

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people – both chief priests and scribes – gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said –

**ALL :**

**If you are the Messiah, tell us.**

**NARRATOR :**

He replied –

**JESUS :**

If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But, from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.

**NARRATOR :**

All of them asked –

**ALL :**

**Are you, then, the Son of God?**

**NARRATOR :**

He said to them –

**JESUS :**

You say that I am.

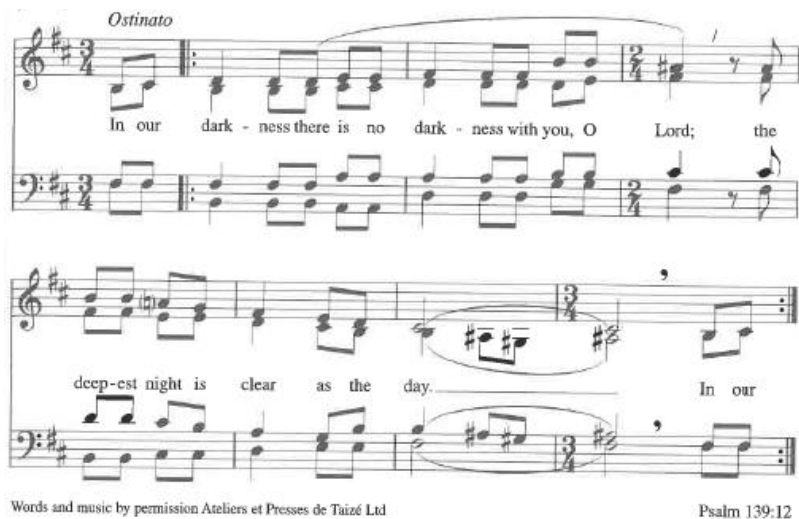
**NARRATOR :**

Then they said –

**ALL :**

**What further testimony do we need?**

**We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!**



*All Sing the Taizé Chant –  
please remain seated*

**In our darkness there is no  
darkness with you O Lord,  
The deepest night is clear  
as the day.**

**NARRATOR :**

Then the assembly rose as a body, and brought Jesus before Pilate.

They began to accuse him, saying –

**ACCUSER 1 :**

We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king.

**NARRATOR :**

Then Pilate asked him –

**PILATE :**

Are you the king of the Jews?

**NARRATOR :**

He answered –

**JESUS :**

You say so.

**NARRATOR :**

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds –

**PILATE :**

I find no basis for an accusation against this man.

**NARRATOR :**

But they were insistent, and said –

**ACCUSER 1 :**

He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began, even to this place.

**NARRATOR :**

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean.

And – when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction –

he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him, and was hoping to see him perform some sign.

He questioned him at some length; but Jesus gave him no answer.

The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him.

Even Herod, with his soldiers, treated him with contempt, and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate.

That same day, Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this, they had been enemies.

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them –

**PILATE :**

You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence, and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged, and release him.

**NARRATOR :**

Then they all shouted out together –

**ALL :**

**Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!**

**NARRATOR :**

(This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting –

**ALL :**

**Crucify! Crucify him!**

**NARRATOR :**

A third time, he said to them –

**PILATE :**

Why, what evil has he done?

I have found in him no ground

for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged, and then release him.

## NARRATOR :

But they kept urgently demanding, with loud shouts, that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for – the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder – and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

As they led him away, they seized a man – Simon of Cyrene – who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and – among them – were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said

## JESUS :

Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and, to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?



*All Sing the Following Taize Chant –  
please remain seated*

**Jesus, remember me –  
when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me –  
when you come into your kingdom.**

## NARRATOR :

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals – one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said –

## JESUS :

Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.



**NARRATOR :**

And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying –

**ALL :**

**He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!**

**NARRATOR :**

The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying –

**ALL :**

**If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!**

**NARRATOR :**

There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews". One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him, and saying

**CRIMINAL 1 :**

Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!

**NARRATOR :**

But the other rebuked him, saying –

**CRIMINAL 2 :**

Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we, indeed, have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds – but this man has done nothing wrong.

**NARRATOR :**

Then he said –

**CRIMINAL 2 :**

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

**NARRATOR :**

He replied –

**JESUS :**

Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.

**NARRATOR :**

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land,  
until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed;  
and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said –

**JESUS :**

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.

**NARRATOR :**

Having said this, he breathed his last.

*a short period of silence is kept*

**NARRATOR :**

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said

**CENTURION :**

Certainly this man was innocent.

**NARRATOR :**

And, when all the crowds – who had gathered there for this spectacle –  
saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.  
But all his acquaintances – including the women who had followed him  
from Galilee – stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who –  
though a member of the council – had not agreed to their plan  
and action.

He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting  
expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate, and asked  
for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth,  
and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning.

The women who had come with him from Galilee followed,  
and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid.

Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath, they rested, according to the commandment.

For the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## The Proclamation of the Cross



*A cross is brought into the church; the bearer stops four times.  
At each station the Cross-Bearer says:*

Behold the wood of the cross  
on which our saviour died.

*The congregation responds*  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The Cross-Bearer places the cross on the Sanctuary Step*

## Hymn – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*The congregation are invited to sit or kneel to sing the hymn:*

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.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

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?

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)*

# The Last Hours with Jesus



Along this way  
**We have walked with Christ.**



Along this way  
**We have shared his table.**



Along this way  
**He has washed our feet.**



Along this way  
**We approach the cross.**



# Jesus Prays in the Garden

## Scripture Sentence

*Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me;  
yet, not my will but yours be done.*



*A time of silence is held for personal reflection & to view the image.*

*Allow your gaze to wander across the image.*

*Look at the photo in more detail, paying attention to the finer elements.*

*Take note of the colours, textures, patterns, or shapes that contribute to the overall image.*

*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and the words of Jesus encourage you in your prayer life?*

**Jesus, you invite me to pray.**

**When I hear the dawn chorus.**

**When I stand bathed in light.**

**When I am troubled and grieved.**

# Jesus is Betrayed

## Scripture Reading

*'Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?'*



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*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and the words of Jesus empower you when you feel betrayed?*

**Jesus, you urge me to stay strong.**

**When my body betrays me.**

**When my spirit sags.**

**When my shoulders droop with the weight of despair.**



## Peter Denies Jesus

### Scripture Reading

*Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him,  
"Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times."  
And he went out and wept bitterly.*



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*Allow your gaze to wander across the image.*

*Look at the photo in more detail, paying attention to the finer elements.*

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*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and Peter's reaction speak to you?*

**Jesus, I recognise my weaknesses.**

**When I fail to honour the dignity of another.**

**When I fail to recognise your face in another.**

**When I fail to acknowledge the divine spark within myself.**

# Jesus Stands Before Pilate

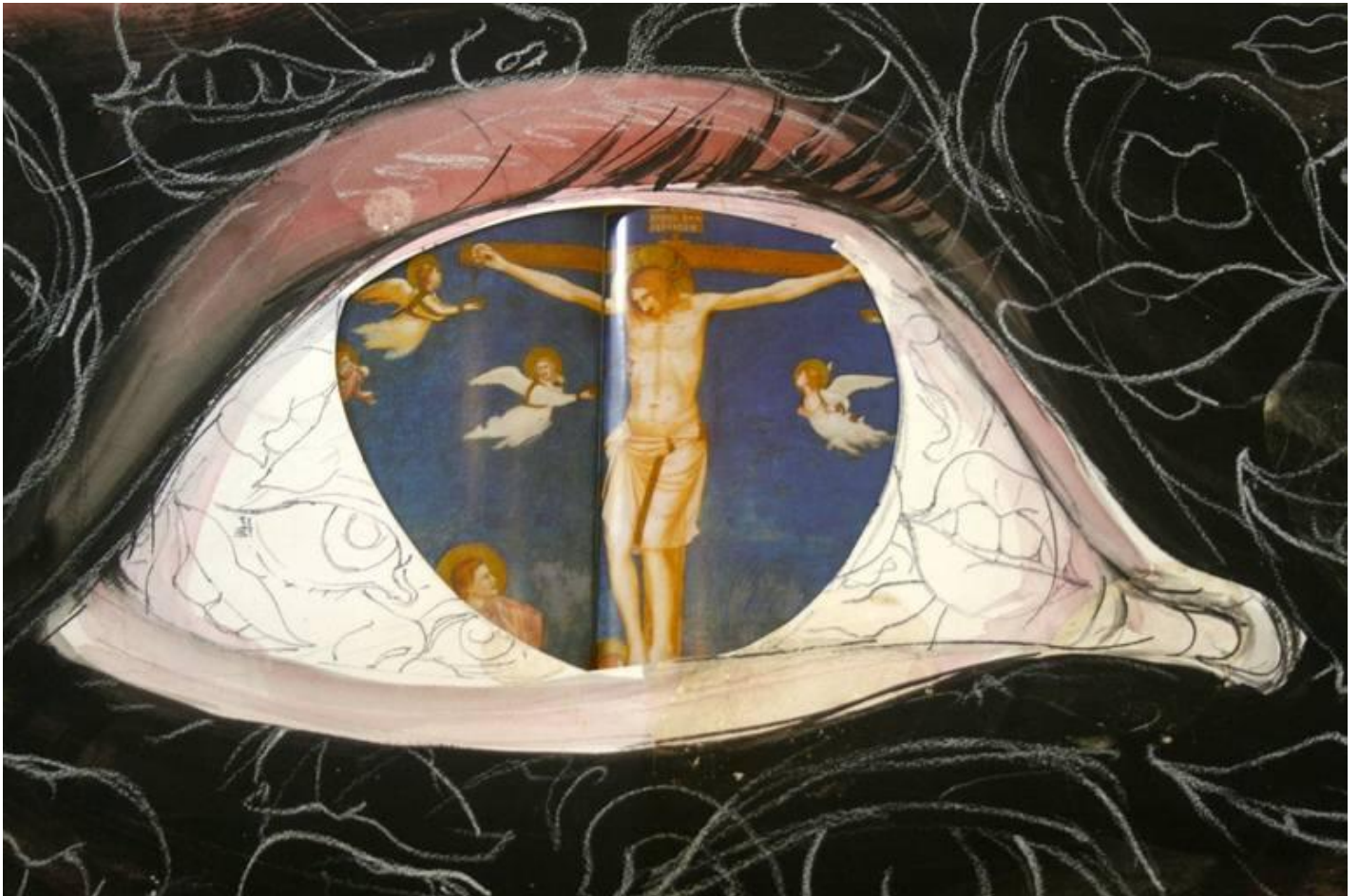
## Scripture Reading

*Pilate said "Why, what evil has he done?*

*I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death;*

*I will therefore have him flogged, and then release him."*

*With loud shouts, that shouted crucify him; and their voices prevailed.*



*A time of silence is held for personal reflection & to view the image.*

*Allow your gaze to wander across the image.*

*Look at the photo in more detail, paying attention to the finer elements.*

*Take note of the colours, textures, patterns, or shapes that contribute to the overall image.*

*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and the words and reactions of the crowd speak to you?*

**Jesus, you reveal that silence is a powerful voice.**

**When I refuse to retaliate verbally.**

**When I refuse to entertain gossip.**

**When I refuse to accept verbal abuse.**



# The Soldiers Mock Jesus

## Scripture Reading

*The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying – If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!*



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*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and Jesus' choice to endure suffering speak to you?*

**Jesus, you teach me the value of steadfast love.**

**When I face mockery but respond with grace.**

**When I hold onto kindness despite cruelty.**

**When I trust in your love above all.**

# Jesus is Crucified

## Scripture Reading

*When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals – one on his right and one on his left.*



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*Look at the photo in more detail, paying attention to the finer elements.*

*Take note of the colours, textures, patterns, or shapes that contribute to the overall image.*

*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and Jesus being crucified with criminals speak to you about his relationship with humanity?*

**Jesus, you prepare me for suffering.**

**When chronic pain grips me.**

**When grief sneaks up and startles me.**

**When the daily grind of living threatens to crush me.**



## Insults are Hurlled at Jesus

### Scripture Reading

*He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!*



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*Allow your gaze to wander across the image.*

*Look at the photo in more detail, paying attention to the finer elements.*

*Take note of the colours, textures, patterns, or shapes that contribute to the overall image.*

*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and Jesus' silence invite us to rethink the need to defend ourselves?*

**Jesus, you empower me**

**When unkind words shadow me.**

**When people hurt me.**

**When change derails me.**

## Creation Groans

### Scripture Reading

*It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land.*



*A time of silence is held for personal reflection & to view the image.*

*Allow your gaze to wander across the image.*

*Look at the photo in more detail, paying attention to the finer elements.*

*Take note of the colours, textures, patterns, or shapes that contribute to the overall image.*

*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and creation's response challenge our understanding of God's presence in times of suffering?*

**Jesus, you teach me to hold the question.**

**When tragedy strikes and I ask, 'Why?'**

**When I am confronted with the unexplainable.**

**When exasperation screams aloud.**

# Jesus Dies

## Scripture Reading

*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*

*Having said this, he breathed his last. '*



*A time of silence is held for personal reflection & to view the image.*

*Allow your gaze to wander across the image.*

*Look at the photo in more detail, paying attention to the finer elements.*

*Take note of the colours, textures, patterns, or shapes that contribute to the overall image.*

*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and Jesus' words speak to you about your relationship with God?*

**Jesus, you are surrounded yet alone.**

**Who will pray for you? Who will pray for us?**

**Who will stand up for you? Who will stand up for us?**

**Who but us. Who but us.**



# The Centurion Recognises God

## Scripture Reading

*When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, and said - Certainly this man was innocent.*



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*Allow your gaze to wander across the image.*

*Look at the photo in more detail, paying attention to the finer elements.*

*Take note of the colours, textures, patterns, or shapes that contribute to the overall image.*

*What are you drawn to & why?*

*How does this image and our belief in Jesus' life, death and resurrection bring us closer to our God?*

## The Veneration of the Cross

*As we enter a time of silence, you are invited to bring to mind the burdens you would like to lay at the foot of the cross, the hurts you long to be freed from and where you seek new life and resurrection.*

There is no part of life which Jesus has not visited.

There is no death untasted by the Christ.

**Thanks be to you, O Christ.**

In faith, we may leave here all that is deathly in our lives,  
believing that it will be absorbed into the Body of Christ  
who waits with arms stretched wide  
to gather in all our reality for healing, forgiveness, and renewal.

**Thanks be to you, O Christ.**

## Hymn - My Song is Love Unknown

*During the singing of this hymn you are invited to come forward and acknowledge the cross. There are three baskets placed before it: one filled with stones for your hurts, one with nails for your burdens, and one with petals for your hopes. If you feel moved, please take a stone, a nail, or some petals – or all three – and lay them at the foot of the cross as a silent offering of prayer.*

My song is love unknown,  
my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from his blest throne  
salvation to bestow:  
but all made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.  
But O my friend! my friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way  
and his sweet praises sing,  
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.  
Then 'Crucify !' is all their breath  
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done?  
What makes this rage and spite?  
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.  
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these  
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

They rise and needs will have  
my dear Lord made away;  
a murderer they save; the Prince of life they slay.  
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,  
that he his foes from thence might free.

In life, no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heaven was his home;  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

*Samuel Crossman (c. 1624-1683)*

## **Closing Prayer**

Jesus our Crucified Christ  
Once again we have been invited into the story of your execution.  
Once again we are undone by the power of this story.  
We have watched as those who followed you see their hopes and  
dreams  
come crashing down and brought to nought.  
We have seen the power of twisted politics.  
We have seen you enduring hostility and abuse.  
We have seen you tortured and broken  
and lain dead and buried in a garden tomb.

Let confusion reign in us these next days,  
let us be unsettled and undone,  
so that we might struggle with the question  
“What does it mean for us to follow the one who has been crucified for  
us?”

*The service concludes in silence.  
Those who wish to receive communion via Reserve Sacrament  
can do so at the side altar as you leave.  
Please feel free to pray quietly for a short time or leave quietly.*

**Please join us for one of our Easter Day Services**  
*8am - Said Holy Communion Service & Lighting of the Easter Candle*  
*9.30am - Sung Holy Communion*  
*[at both services there will be a children's talk & activity]*