

Worship at Home – Good Friday 15 April 2022

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

Opening Prayer

Loving God

We stand at the foot of the cross and remember what happened when your Son was crucified for us. In this act of worship may we know your presence with us. Amen.

Hymn: StF 287 When I survey

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne-kTyAnDsE&list=PLfJKMN-CtuWCeWWWKYxMLY_81soj1dufJ&index=4

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?

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.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Let us pray together

Gracious God, today we remember the sacrifice your son made by his death upon the cross. We thank you that he was willing to suffer and die for us. As we remember, we recognise that we have often nailed Jesus to the cross. We have not always acted in ways that show others your love. And for this we are sorry. Through the cross, we know ourselves forgiven. As we turn from this place, we again commit ourselves to sharing your love with all we meet. We offer these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Today's Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Today's Gospel Reading: John 19:17-42

Time to Reflect

Today is Good Friday. Some people may ask why call it Good Friday when it wasn't really a good day because of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. For those first disciples it certainly didn't feel like it was at all, indeed for them it was probably better described as 'Black Friday' as they saw their friend and teacher die on the cross and all their hopes and dreams for the future die with him. Or so they thought. But I am jumping too far ahead here. On Good Friday we remember the day when the sky turned black and the Son of God was crucified.

A few years ago I had the privilege of being a part of a town-wide passion play which took place on Easter Saturday. I was one of the team working backstage. One powerful moment for me was during the dress

rehearsal the day before on Good Friday itself. Just as the light was starting to fade we reached the crucifixion scene. Our director would have probably told me off for this but I came down from the steps at the side of the stage and on to the square to watch the scene since I wouldn't see it properly the following day. The atmosphere in that square by that point had completely changed. A few people had stopped to watch. It was that quiet that you could hear a pin drop. It isn't easy to put into words how powerful that scene was on Good Friday but I certainly felt as though I was at the foot of the cross 2000 and odd years ago watching Jesus die for us all.

The cross suggested that everything was over. But we know that it wasn't. For we know now that Easter Sunday is coming. But before then we recall and remember Jesus' suffering on the cross and all that he endured for us. He didn't have to but he did. Why? Because he loves us so much that he was prepared to die for each and every one of us. So although right now it can seem like all is dark and hopeless we need to remember that over 2000 years ago Jesus was nailed to the cross to bring us peace and hope although it can feel that hope and peace are far away from us right now. He was nailed to the cross that we might know God's love for each and every one of us. So as we remember and reflect on the events of that first Good Friday over 2000 years ago we remember the love for us that was shown upon that cross.

Take a time to sit quietly

A time of prayer

As we remember all that happened on that first Good Friday we bring our concerns and prayers and lay them down at the foot of the cross.

Lord Jesus Christ, on this day you sacrificed your life, upon the cross, for each and every one of us. You suffered unimaginable pain. You could have chosen not to go through with, it but you did not. In doing so you showed God's love for the world.

We bring to the foot of your cross our concerns and prayers for the world in which we live. We pray for those areas of the world where there is suffering, violence and conflict. We pray for peace across the world. May the world know the love for them that you demonstrated upon the cross.

We pray Lord for the church. As the world continues to adjust to the coronavirus pandemic it needs the church more than ever. Help your church to share your love and to offer hope everywhere. Give us your guidance that your church may be equipped and strengthened for the work to which you have called it.

We bring to the foot of your cross those facing challenging times. So many people in our world are suffering. We offer our prayers for those we know who need our prayers. We place their names at the foot of the cross and ask that they may be aware of your love and strength at this difficult time.

We bring to the foot of your cross those who have died. We bring them to you in the knowledge that they are with you and that you have gathered them into your loving arms. We ask that those who mourn are comforted, knowing that their loved ones are with you and are at peace.

We kneel at the foot of your cross. We remember Lord Jesus how you showed your love for the world. Equip us to share that message with others. Guide us in the right direction and help us to face whatever challenges lie before us. As we stand and look from the cross to your tomb and all that awaits in a few days' time remind us again of the hope and good news that we can share with others.

We ask these and all our prayers in your name.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father

Hymn: Listen to **StF 270 Come and see**
or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gizXMaQ7Y5o>

Come and see, come and see,
come and see the King of love;
see the purple robe and crown of thorns he wears.
Soldiers mock, rulers sneer
as he lifts the cruel cross;
lone and friendless now, he climbs towards
the hill.

We worship at your feet,
where wrath and mercy meet,
and a guilty world is washed
by love's pure stream.
For us he was made sin --
oh, help me take it in.
Deep wounds of love cry out
'Father, forgive.'
I worship, I worship
the Lamb who was slain.

Come and weep, come and mourn
for your sin that pierced him there;
so much deeper than the wounds of thorn
and nail.
All our pride, all our greed,
all our fallenness and shame;
and the Lord has laid the punishment on him.

Man of heaven, born to earth
to restore us to your heaven.
Here we bow in awe beneath your searching
eyes.
From your tears comes our joy,
from your death our life shall spring;
by your resurrection power we shall rise.
Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)

A prayer of blessing

Loving God

We step away from the cross and look
towards the tomb in which your Son was laid
and from which he was raised. As we journey
away from the cross towards the tomb and
onward to resurrection, we go in the

knowledge that you are with us
every step of the way. Amen.

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We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from
around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at
Home. This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations
and Worship in the Connexional Team.

For more worship resources see

[The Bible \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://The Bible (methodist.org.uk))

[Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://Singing the Faith Plus (methodist.org.uk))

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Suffering Servant

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human
semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
¹⁵ so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall
contemplate.

⁵³ Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

John 19:17-42

¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what
is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called
Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two
others, one on either side, with Jesus between
them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on
the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the
Jews.' ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because
the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;
and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in
Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' ²²Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' ²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

²⁵And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' ²⁹A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³²Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' ³⁷And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

The Burial of Jesus

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in

linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.