



***At the foot of the cross
Christ Church 2021***



1.30 pm – Reflective music

2pm – 3pm – At the cross

with Revd Canon Muriel Pargeter

You are invited to take a candle from the basket on your way out as a reminder that Jesus died on the cross and rose again and is the “light of the world”.

Jesus said “Take up your cross and follow me”.

As we gather there will be a time for reflection and prayer with music from 1.30pm – 2pm

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Our journey begins...

Sung by one singer only

***Broken for me, broken for you,
the body of Jesus broken for you.***

1 He offered His body, He poured out His soul,
Jesus was broken that we might be whole:

Broken for me . . .

2 Come to My table and with Me dine,
eat of My bread and drink of My wine:

Broken for me . . .

3 This is My body given for you,
eat it remembering I died for you:

Broken for me . . .

4 This is My blood I shed for you,
for your forgiveness, making you new:

Broken for me . . .

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*The smaller cross will now be carried from the west
end of the church and laid as a shadow in front on the
main cross whilst listening to our opening reflection*

“The cross is a picture of violence,
yet the key to peace;
A picture of suffering,
yet the key to healing;
A picture of death,
yet the key to life;
A picture of weakness,
yet the key to power;
A picture of capital punishment,
yet the key to mercy and forgiveness;
A picture of vicious hatred,
yet the key to love;
A picture of supreme shame,
yet the Christian’s supreme boast.”

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Opening Hymn *sung by singers only*

1 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?

- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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 (1624–83) Public Domain

Silent Reflection

Peter denies Jesus

Reading from St Luke's gospel chapter 22 vs 54 – 62

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Worship Song *sung by the singers only*

1 Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice;
You became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life,
and I'm in that place once again,
I'm in that place once again.

*And once again I look upon
the cross where You died,
I'm humbled by Your mercy
and I'm broken inside.
Once again I thank You,
once again I pour out my life.*

2 Now You are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow,
but for now, I marvel at this saving grace
and I'm full of praise once again,
I'm full of praise once again.

And once again . . .

Matt Redman
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*A commentary from William Barclay
on the Scourging of Jesus*

Silent reflection

Pilate disowns Jesus

Reading from St Luke's gospel chapter 23 vs 1 – 23

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king."

So Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

"You have said so," Jesus replied.

Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man."

But they insisted, "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."

On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer.

The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed.

Hymn *sung by the singers only*

- 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 death of Christ my God:
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to 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 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) Public Domain

Silent reflection

The thief pleads for mercy

A reading from St Luke's gospel chapter 23 vs 39 – 43

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Silent reflection

Hymn *sung by the singers only*

- 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 (1818–95) Public Domain

***A reading from St John's gospel
Chapter 19 vs 25 – 27***

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Good Friday reflection given by Muriel

Closing Song *sung by the singers only*

- 1 How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
that He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
the Father turns His face away,
as wounds which mar the chosen one
bring many sons to glory.
- 2 Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.
- 3 I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer,
but this I know with all my heart,
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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The Blessing

We leave in silence