

CHRIST CHURCH WORTHING



GOOD FRIDAY

29TH March 2024

2pm

A Service of Reflection

led by

The Revd Yvonne Murphy

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
By his wounds you have been healed.

The Collect

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. ***Amen***

Hymn [123]

There is a green hill far away,
without a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.

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.

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.

There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
he only could unlock the gate
of heaven, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

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Lord Jesus Christ,

We have failed you as did your first disciples,
We ask for your mercy and help
Our selfishness betrays you:

Lord forgive us:

All: Christ have mercy,

We fail to share the pain of your suffering;

Lord forgive us,

All: Christ have mercy

We run away from those who abuse you;

Lord forgive us,

All: Christ have mercy

We are afraid of being known to belong to you;

Lord forgive us,

All: Christ have mercy

May almighty God,

Who sent His Son into the world to save sinners,
Bring you His pardon and peace, now and forever.

All: Amen

Poem: Love's as warm as tears – C.S.Lewis

Silence

Reader 1 – Janine H

Gospel Reading [John 18: 28 – 40]

Then the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, 'What charges are you bringing against this man?'

'If he were not a criminal,' they replied, 'we would not have handed him over to you.'

Pilate said, 'Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.'

'But we have no right to execute anyone,' the Jews objected. This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, 'Are you the king of the Jews?'

'Is that your own idea,' Jesus asked, 'or did others talk to you about me?'

'Am I a Jew?' Pilate replied. 'It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?'

Jesus said, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.'

'You are a king, then!' said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.'

'What is truth?' retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, 'I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release "the king of the Jews"?''

They shouted back, 'No, not him! Give us Barabbas!' Now Barabbas had taken part in a rebellion.

Reflection: Barrabus the criminal

– *Wild Goose Worship Group*

Silence

Hymn [112]

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 men 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 hath 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.

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Reader 2 – Ken H

Gospel Reading [John 19: 1 - 16]

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' And they struck him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.' When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!'

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify! Crucify!'

But Pilate answered, 'You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.'

The Jews insisted, 'We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.'

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. 'Where do you come from?' he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. 'Do you refuse to speak to me?' Pilate said. 'Don't you realise I have power either to free you or to crucify you?'

Jesus answered, 'You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.'

From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jews kept shouting, 'If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.'

When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week; about the sixth hour.

'Here is your king,' Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted, 'Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!'

'Shall I crucify your king?' Pilate asked.

'We have no king but Caesar,' the chief priests answered.

Finally, Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Reflection – Pilate's Wife

Silence

Reader 3 – Dorothy F

Gospel Reading [John 19: 17 - 27]

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, 'Do not write "The King of the Jews", but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.'

Pilate answered, 'What I have written, I have written.'

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

'Let's not tear it,' they said to one another. 'Let's decide by lot who will get it.'

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

‘They divided my clothes among them
and cast lots for my clothing.’
So this is what the soldiers did.

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 his mother, ‘Dear woman, here is your son,’ and to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’ From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Hymn [127] Choir - vs 4 is omitted from the hymn book

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count as 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’re such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

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!

Poem: The Mother's Rage – Nicola Slee

Silence

Reader 4 – Ann P

Gospel Reading [John 19: 28 – 30]

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.' A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Reflection: The Three Faces of Christ

– Trevor Dennis

Silence

Reader 5 – Sally T

Gospel Reading [John 19: 31 - 37]

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked

Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken,' and, as another scripture says, 'They will look on the one they have pierced.'

Reflection: The Sentry – Frank Jenkins

Silence

HYMN 108

Glory be to Jesus,
Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life-blood
From His sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal
In that Blood I find;
Blest be His compassion,
Infinitely kind.

Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream,
Which from endless torments
Did the world redeem.

Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.

Oft as it is sprinkled,
On our guilty hearts;
Satan in confusion
Terror-struck departs.

Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel-hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

Lift ye then your voices;
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood.

Reader 6 – John B

Gospel Reading [John 19: 38 - 42]

Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it

was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Reflection: It was on the Friday

– Wild Goose Worship Group

Silence

Poem: Jesus Dies on the Cross – Malcolm Guite

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved humanity: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**



All now depart in silence

Registered Charity No 1152846
Parochial Church Council of Worthing Christ Church
Website: www.christchurchworthing.org.uk

Join us for...

**Holy Communion on
Easter Sunday at 10.30am**

