

Bridge Court Good Friday

15th April, 2022

Call and Welcome: John 3:16 & 17

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Amen.

Hymn: 'There is a green hill far away,'

1. There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where our 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.

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Reading 1: Luke chapter 23 verses 1 to 12

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 Christ, a king." So Pilate asked Jesus,

"Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say," 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 some miracle. 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. Amen.

Hymn: 'Come and see, come and see'

**1. 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. *Chorus:*
*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.***

**2. 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. *Chorus:***

**3. 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. *Chorus:***

© Graham Kendrick – (born 1950)

Reading 2: Luke chapter 23 verses 13 to 25

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." With one voice they cried out,

"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. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will. Amen.

Hymn: 'The Servant King'

1. From heaven You came,

**Helpless babe, entered our world,
Your glory veiled; not to be served
But to serve and give Your life
That we might live. *Chorus:***

***This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him,
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.***

**2. There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load he chose to bear;
His heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not My will but Yours,' He said. *Chorus:***

**3. Come see His hands and His feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice ;
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered. *Chorus:***

**4. So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone Him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving. *Chorus:* © Graham Kendrick – (born 1950)**

Reading 3: Luke chapter 23 verses 26 and 32 to 43

As they led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed.

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.

Jesus said,

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said,

"He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him:

"Aren't you the Christ? 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,

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." Amen.

Hymn: 'Jesus in the olive grove,'

**1. Jesus in the olive grove
Waiting for a traitor's kiss,
Rises free from bitterness.**

**2. As he wakes his comrades up,
Torches flicker in the glen;
Shadows turn to marching men.**

**3. In that dawn of blows and lies
Church and State conspire to kill,
Hang three rebels on a hill.**

**4. Innocent and guilty drown
In a flood of blood and sweat.
How much darker can it get?**

**5. How much darker must it be
For a God to see and care
That we perish in despair?**

**6. It is God himself who dies!
God in man shall set us free:
God as Man – and only he.**

**7. Let him claim us as his own;
We will serve as best we can
Such a God and such a Man!**

© Fred Pratt Green (1903 – 2000)

Hymn: 'Were you there when they crucified my Lord?'

**1. 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?**

**2. 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?**

**3. 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?**

African – American traditional song

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father and Lord of life, we come to you on this solemn day in reverence and penitence, for we know the dreadful cost Christ Jesus was willing to pay for not only our sins but for the sins of the whole world. Our readings remind us of your amazing grace to fallen humankind, for instead of punishing us as we deserve, you allowed your beloved Son to bear our punishment, though he was sinless. Lord, as you forgive us, help us to forgive our neighbours when they hurt or offend us.

As our Lord Jesus hung on that cross, he looked outwards at the world with all its needs and suffering and, despite his agony, he arranged for John to take care of his mother. Help us, also, to look out at the world in all its beauty and brokenness, so we may do whatever we can to help and care for others, for by doing so we are building your kingdom in Jesus' precious name.

We know that we are only a small part of your Church, but we pray that all our brothers and sisters in Christ will unite to carry the light of Good News to a world

darkened by selfishness and evil. Embolden us to proclaim Christ crucified and raised to life again, to celebrate his victory over sin and death for all our sakes.

Finally, Lord, we pray for our world, that you will come to rule the hearts and minds of all nations, that justice and loving kindness will triumph over wrongdoing and cruelty and that the beauty of your peace will be established in the name of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We shall say the Prayer Jesus taught his followers.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: 'When I survey the wondrous cross'

**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. 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 an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

© Isaac Watts {1674 – 1748}

Reading 4: Luke chapter 23 verses 44 to 56

It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice,

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said,

"Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate,

he asked for Jesus' body. Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no-one had yet been laid.

It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment. Amen.

Hymn: 'The old rugged cross'

**1. On a hill far away stood an old, rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I loved that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain. *Chorus:***

***So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.***

**2. Oh that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left his glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary. *Chorus:***

**3. In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me. *Chorus:***

**4. To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away;
There his glory for ever I'll share. *Chorus:* © George Bennard {1873 – 1958}**

Benediction

As we have shared in the passion and death of Jesus, may we also share in the power and joy of new life in Christ, where we have the privilege and responsibility of taking good news of your redemptive love to those we meet.

May we go from here in reflective peace and may the love of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit remain with us and those we love now and forevermore. Amen.