

Good Friday



Welcome to this service of the 'last hour'

The service will flow unannounced. Please respond during the service with the words in **bold**. As you listen, take the opportunity to dwell within the words, allow God to meet you, and reflect and pray within times of silence.

Welcome

Opening Responses

In the shadow of our suffering
is the suffering of Jesus

In the shadow of our weakness
is the vulnerability of the Christ

In the shadow of our pain
is the God who cried out

We are never rejected
we are never abandoned

Bible Reading Matthew 27: 11-14, 22-25, 26b

Meditation

We stand to sing

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

Refrain:

*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*

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 *refrain*

Come see His hands and His feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered *refrain*

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 *refrain*

Bible Reading: Matthew 27: 27-31

Meditation.

Music - Gabriel Fauré, Pie Jesu

we hold a short time of silence as we reflect upon these questions:

What does it mean for me to follow the way of the cross?

Have there been times when I have not stood up for someone who was being mistreated?

How might I be the presence of God in the world?

after the silence we respond

Be strong and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord. Psalm 31:24

Bible Reading: John 19: 16-19, & 22-27

Meditation

Music: Paul Zach - Where are you now?

we hold a short time of silence as we reflect on the following:

Our own loss, grief, aloneness

Occasions when others may have tried to take our human dignity or belittle us or those in our circle of friends and family

Times we have not treated others with the dignity they are owed.

after the silence we respond

Be strong and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord. Psalm 31:24

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
We bring to you our hurt and grief,
the times we have felt diminished by others.
We pray for all those who have been exploited, bullied, belittled.
All who have been perpetrators of such acts.
Help us to play our part in reconciliation,
in rebuilding broken relationships,
broken lives, broken communities
Amen

We stand to sing

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me;
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
Oh, 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 oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need His life did spend!

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.

Bible Reading : John 19:28-9

Meditation

Music - Lord, we bring you all our sorrows - Paul Zach

we hold a short silence

We take into the silence our own dryness and thirst.
Our suffering and doubts, our own deepest needs and an openness
to receive.

after the silence we respond

Be strong and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord. Psalm 31:24

Prayer

Gracious God

You feel our suffering our questions our doubts.

You know our deepest needs.

May we thirst for your unconditional love.

Help us to receive you now.

Amen

We stand to sing

As the deer pants for the water,

So my soul longs after You.

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship You. Refrain

You alone are my strength, my shield,

To You alone may my spirit yield.

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship You.

I want You more than gold or silver,

Only You can satisfy.

You alone are the real joy-giver

And the apple of my eye.

You're my Friend and You are my brother,

Even though You are a King.

I love You more than any other,

So much more than anything.

Bible Reading : John 19:30

Meditation

we hold a short silence

We take into the silence our own sense of mortality, our own accomplishments and an openness to what lies beyond our horizon whilst continuing to live in the world, as the eyes, and hands and feet of Christ

after the silence we respond

Be strong and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord. Psalm 31:24

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we look upon you,
crucified and stretched out
between heaven and earth, wide open to attack,
yet embracing the world
as you are nailed to the wood of the cross.
As you forgive us for all the hate,
the murder, the killing, and war,
help us to accept your forgiveness
to turn and forgive one another
and ask forgiveness of those we have harmed.
May we stretch out our arms to embrace the world
and seek to make peace as you have made peace with us,
Amen

As music is played, we come up to honour the cross. We may wish
to place our strip of cloth, a symbol of gratitude and love.

Music Christ has no body now but yours - David Ogden

Bible Reading: John 19: 31-42

Meditation

Prayer

Gracious God
your hands now bear the wounds,
your heart now holds the agony, of that appalling cross.
Hold us in your everlasting arms
as we face the little deaths of daily life
and the great mystery of our own mortality.
May we find you there beside us,
light in our darkest night.
Amen

We stand to sing

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 through 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.

Concluding Prayer

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

We leave the church in silence.

Jesus is in the tomb.

The world is hushed and waiting.

Front cover design: Ann Holden