

The Church on the Heath

Hour at the Cross

Good Friday 2020



Welcome

Living God,
in so many ways this is the blackest of days
recalling the darkest of moments –
a day on which hearts were broken
and faith tested to the limit,
a day of appalling suffering and agonising death,
a day when all hell was let loose
and love seemed overwhelmed.

Yet we can call this day 'Good Friday',
for in all of that horror you were there.
In the despair, in the pain,
in the humiliation, in the sorrow,
you were supremely at work,
demonstrating the immensity of your love.

Living God,
as we recall those terrible yet wonderful events,
give us new insight into what you did that day,
for us and for all. **Amen**

**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.**

Reading: Mark 15:1-15, Jesus before Pilate

A moment to pause as we reflect on this reading

Song: There is a green hill far away

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.

Confession:

Lord, broken on the cross,
You were shattered for us.
We come to you:
For you alone can make us whole.

We come with all broken people,
Whose lives are shattered.
We come to you:
For you alone can make us whole.

We come with those suffering from
Broken relationships, broken promises,
Broken hopes, broken dreams, broken hearts.
We come to you:
For you alone can make us whole.

We come with those suffering from
Broken bodies, those who have suddenly taken ill,
The injured in accidents, the victims of violence,
With all who are in hospital or
needing care at home.
We come to you:
For you alone can make us whole.

We come with all those suffering from
Broken minds, the deeply disturbed,
The distressed, the depressed, the suicidal.
We come to you:
For you alone can make us whole.

We come to you, shattered on the cross,
Broken for our healing.
You are the risen Lord, the giver of life,
You renew us and offer us life eternal.
We come to you:
For you alone can make us whole.

Reading: Mark 15:16-20, The soldiers mock Jesus

A moment to pause as we reflect on this reading

Song for reflection: Pie Jesu – John Rutter

Reading: Mark 15:21-32, *The crucifixion*

Meditation: The God who is Vulnerable

Song: Oh to see the dawn (the power of the cross)

Oh, to see the dawn
of the darkest day:
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men,
torn and beaten, then
nailed to a cross of wood.

*This, the power of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath –
we stand forgiven at the cross.*

Oh, to see the pain
written on your face,
bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Every bitter thought,
every evil deed
crowning your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees,
now the ground beneath
quakes as its Maker bows his head.
Curtain torn in two,
dead are raised to life;
'Finished!' the victory cry.

Oh, to see my name
written in the wounds,
for through your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
life is mine to live,
won through your selfless love.

Reading: Mark 15:33-41, *The death of Jesus*

A moment to pause as we reflect on this reading

Song: When I survey the wondrous cross

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?

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!

Blessing:

You believe that by his dying
Christ destroyed death for ever.
Amen.

You have been crucified with Christ
and live by faith in the Son of God, who loved you and gave himself
for you.
Amen.

May he send you out to glory in his cross,
and live no longer for yourselves but for him,
who died and was raised to life for us.

Amen