



# **The Robes of Woe**

**Good Friday, 2017**  
Knox Church, Christchurch

# Good Friday

*Good Friday is the day on which the Church remembers the crucifixion and death of Jesus. On this day we recall the people's cruelty to Jesus, and interpret it as human nature's desire to push God away. Accordingly several aspects of the usual service that assert the presence of God are omitted. There is no opening greeting ("May God be with you") and no benediction at the end. Further, following the Prayer of Confession there is no Assurance of Pardon.*

*The heart of the Good Friday service is the reading of Jesus' Passion. This year the Passion is taken from John's gospel.*

*The service ends when, at the conclusion of the closing reflection, the minister leaves the church. Please keep a silence in the church after the service, and when you feel moved to leave, please do so quietly. Feel no pressure to leave the church immediately; the minister will not be waiting at the door.*

***If you would like company after the service, you are invited to join the members of Durham Street Methodist Church who are gathering in the Knox Centre Lounge for Hot Cross buns. Please be aware that the congregation of St Luke's will have begun its Good Friday vigil by then and will appreciate your consideration about noise.***

*While Good Friday is a day of sorrow, and a stark occasion in the calendar of the Christian Faith, it does not stand alone. On Easter Day the sequel to Good Friday begins. It is important that you hear the second part of the story of the death of Jesus. Please make an effort to attend Church on Sunday. If you are travelling beyond Christchurch, and cannot attend the service at Knox, find another good church at which you can hear the Good News of Easter.*

*Music printed in this order of service is covered  
under a music copyright licence agreement:  
LicenSing #604802*

# The Service

**Introit:** When Jesus wept  
William Billings (1746-1800)

## **The Solemn Sentences:**

Yet even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
rend your hearts and not your clothing.

*Joel 2:12-13*

So I gave my attention to the Lord God  
to seek Him by prayer and supplications,  
with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.

*Daniel 9: 3*

Joseph of Arimathea  
and Nicodemus  
took the body of Jesus,  
and, as is the burial custom of the Jews,  
bound it in linen cloths with the spices.

*John 19:50*

## **The Prayer of Confession**

. . . Lord have mercy.  
**CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**  
Lord have mercy.

*We keep a silence*



**A Lesson:** Isaiah 64: 6-12

**A Reflection:** Of cloaks, crowns and rags

**Hymn:**

Bow Brickhill

Sydney Hugo Nicholson (1875-1947)



1. The Love that clothes itself in light stands naked now, despised, betrayed, receiving blows to face and head from hands that Love itself has made.
2. The Love that lifts the stars and sun collapses, spent, beneath the cross; the Love that fills the universe goes on to death and total loss.
3. Love, helpless, comes to Calvary, rejected, scorned and crucified; Love hangs in shame, and dies alone, but Love, abased, is glorified.
4. Extinguished with the sun at noon, Love's light transcends all history; Love wrapped in linen, Love entombed, still wraps all heaven in mystery.
5. Though love is lost, Love finds us here; though love is absent, Love remains; where Love is finished, Love begins; where Love is dead, Love lives and reigns!

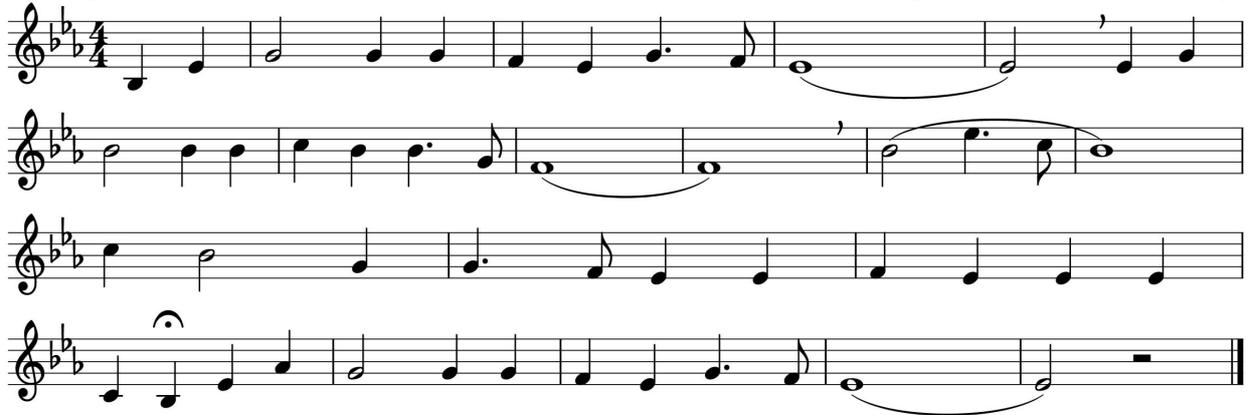
*Alan Gaunt (b. 1935)*

## The Reading of the Passion: St John 18 & 19

### Hymn:

Were you there

Negro Spiritual Melody



1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
O 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 . . .
3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side . . .
4. Were you there when the sun refused to shine . . .
5. Were you there when they dressed him for the grave . . .
6. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb . . .

*Negro Spiritual*

*Verse 5, Matthew Jack (b. 1963)*

## Prayers for the World and the Lord's Prayer

*To the minister's words "we pray",  
please respond "GOD, HEAR OUR PRAYER".*

... **OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME,  
YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE,  
ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.  
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.  
FORGIVE US OUR SINS  
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.  
SAVE US FROM THE TIME OF TRIAL AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL.**

**FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE GLORY  
ARE YOURS NOW AND FOR EVER. AMEN.**

*Without announcement, we stand to sing*

**Hymn:**

Rockingham

Edward Miller (1731-1807)



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. When I survey the wondrous cross<br>on which the Prince of glory died,<br>my richest gain I count but loss,<br>and pour contempt on all my pride. | 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast<br>save in the death of Christ my God;<br>all the vain things that charm me most,<br>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?

*The fourth verse is sung unaccompanied*

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)*

**Epilogue:** Strips of cloth

**No Benediction**

**No Postlude**