



Social isolation

Good Friday, 2020
Knox Church, Christchurch

The video of this service will go "public"
at noon on Thursday 9 April, at
<https://youtu.be/8wEAjMN0azc>

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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 - to do some "social isolation". 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.

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 tune in to our Easter service on Sunday.

Pastoral note:

Because it is a reflection on the trial, crucifixion and death of Jesus, the Good Friday service is a solemn occasion. If you are feeling a bit fragile in isolation, you may want to consider whether this service, called "Social Isolation", is right for you just now.

This year, of course, because the services are being broadcast online, and the service for Easter Day is already available, you don't need to wait three days before hearing an answer to Good Friday in the good news of Easter! If you need to, you can see the Easter service immediately. This may be a good approach for some of us this year.

The Service

The Solemn Sentences:

With their flocks and herds they shall go to seek the Lord,
they will not find him;
he has withdrawn from them.

Hosea 5:6

Jesus then said,
"I will be with you a little while longer,
and then I am going to him who sent me.
You will search for me,
but you will not find me;
and where I am, you cannot come."

John 7: 34

The ultimate social isolation . . .

The Prayer of Confession

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

Hymn:

Salley Gardens

Irish folk tune



1. Here hangs a man discarded,
a scarecrow hoisted high,
a nonsense pointing nowhere
to all who hurry by.
Can such a clown of sorrows
still bring a useful word
where faith and love seem phantoms
and every hope absurd?
2. Can he give help or comfort
to lives by comfort bound,
where drums of dazzling progress
give strangely hollow sound?
Life emptied of all meaning,
drained out in bleak distress,
can share in broken silence
my deepest emptiness;

3. and love that freely entered
the pit of life's despair
can name our hidden darkness
and suffer with us there.
Christ, in our darkness risen,
help all who long for light
to hold the hand of promise
and walk into the light.

Words: Brian Wren (b.1936)

Tune: Peter Warwick Cutts (b.1937)

A Lesson: Mark 1: 40-45

A Reflection: Thrown away

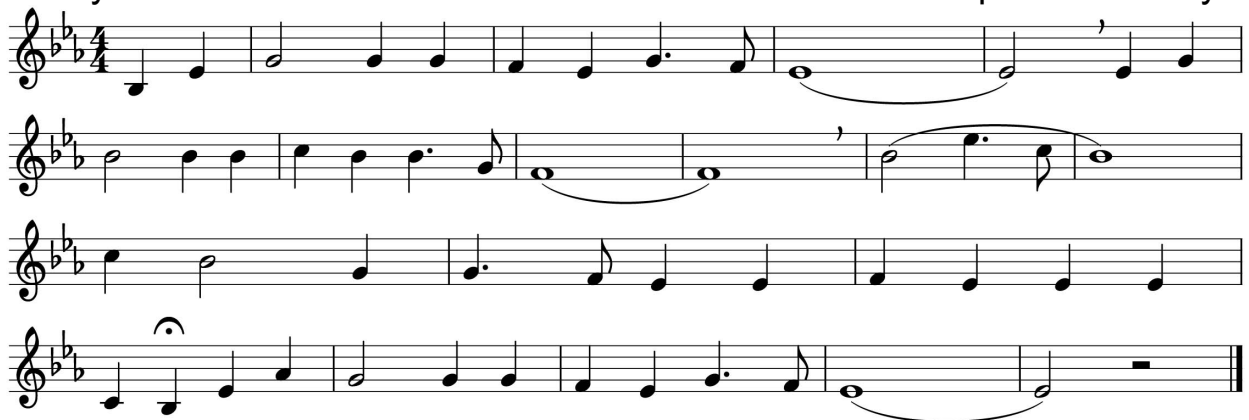
Music for Reflection: Piano Concerto No. 2, Second movement, Andante
Dmitri Shostakovich (1906-1975)
Daniel Cooper (organ), Gabriel Baird (piano)

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

Hymn:

Were you there

African-American spiritual melody



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? . . .
Oh, sometimes . . .
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? . . .
Oh, sometimes . . .
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Words: based on an African-American spiritual

Prayers for the World and the Lord's Prayer

*To the minister's words, "God of mercy",
you are invited to respond, "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
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?

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Epilogue: Call it a day