



The cross: something's wrong

Good Friday, 2021
Knox Church, Otautahi, 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. There is no morning tea today.

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 come to the service on Easter Day. If you are out of town on Sunday, you can always view the Easter sermon online - the Youtube link will be posted on the Knox website:

<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/news.html>

The Service

The Solemn Sentences:

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53: 6

Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know — this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law.

Acts 2: 22-23

Something is wrong . . .

The Prayer of Confession

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

Hymn:

Martyrdom

Hugh Wilson (1766-1824)



1. Up from the depths I cry to God:
O listen, Lord, to me;
O hear my voice in this distress,
this mire of misery.
2. If you, my God, should measure guilt
who then stands free from blame?
But true forgiveness comes from you;
we trust, and fear your name.
3. O Israel, set your hope on God,
whose mercy is supreme:
the nation mourning for its sin,
God surely will redeem.

*from Psalm 130,
Christopher Martin Idle (b. 1938)*

A Lesson: Isaiah 53: 1-5, 8

A Reflection: A tree abducted

Hymn:

Love Unknown

John Nicholson Ireland (1879-1962)



1. My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O who am I
that for my sake
my God should take
frail flesh, and die?
2. He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow:
but Christ as flesh and bone
the world refused to know.
But O my friend!
my friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend.
3. Sometimes they threw down palms
and sweetest praises sang.
Hosannas and glad psalms
through streets and markets rang.
Then "Crucify!"
is all their breath
and for his death
they thirst and cry.
4. Why, what has my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
Christ gave new strength to run,
restored the gift of sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
themselves displease,
and 'gainst him rise.

5. I sing my plain belief,
one song my heart outpours;
never was pain nor grief,
never was love like yours.
This is my friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (1624-1684), alt.

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

Music for Reflection: Have mercy, O Lord
Lucien Deiss (1921-2007)

Prayers for the World and the Lord's Prayer

*To the minister's words, "We pray that Christ, one day, will rise and reign",
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: Bloody cross

No Benediction