

## Worship at Home – Good Friday 15 April 2022

This short act of worship has been prepared for you to use at home. We invite you to spend a few moments with God, knowing that other people across the Methodist Connexion are sharing this act of worship with you.

### Opening Prayer

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

Loving God

We stand at the foot of the cross and remember what happened when your Son was crucified for us. In this act of worship may we know your presence with us. Amen.

### Hymn: StF 287 When I survey

Sing/ Read /pray /proclaim the words or listen to it here

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne-kTyAnDsE&list=PLfJKMN-CtuWCeWWWKYxMLY\\_81soj1dufJ&index=4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne-kTyAnDsE&list=PLfJKMN-CtuWCeWWWKYxMLY_81soj1dufJ&index=4)

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?

His dying crimson, like a robe,  
spreads o'er his body on the tree;  
then am I dead to all the globe,  
and all the globe is dead to me.

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.

Let us pray together

Gracious God, today we remember the sacrifice your son made by his death upon the cross. We thank you that he was willing to suffer and die for us. As we remember, we recognise that we have often nailed Jesus to the cross. We have not always acted in ways that show others your love. And for this we are sorry. Through the cross, we know ourselves forgiven. As we turn from this place, we again commit ourselves to sharing your love with all we meet. We offer these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**Today's Reading from the Old Testament** Isaiah 52:13-53:12

### The Suffering Servant

<sup>13</sup> See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.

<sup>14</sup> Just as there were many who were astonished at him

—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals—

<sup>15</sup> so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,

and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

53 Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been

revealed?

<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at  
him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire  
him.

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with  
infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no  
account.

### **Today's Gospel Reading: John 19:17-42**

<sup>17</sup>and carrying the cross by himself, he went out  
to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in  
Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified  
him, and with him two others, one on either side,  
with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also had an  
inscription written and put on the cross. It read,  
'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' <sup>20</sup>Many  
of the Jews read this inscription, because the  
place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;  
and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in  
Greek. <sup>21</sup>Then the chief priests of the Jews said to  
Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but,  
"This man said, I am King of the Jews."' <sup>22</sup>Pilate  
answered, 'What I have written I have  
written.' <sup>23</sup>When the soldiers had crucified Jesus,  
they took his clothes and divided them into four  
parts, one for each soldier. They also took his  
tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one  
piece from the top. <sup>24</sup>So they said to one another,  
'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who  
will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture  
says,  
'They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.'

<sup>25</sup>And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were  
his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife  
of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus  
saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved  
standing beside her, he said to his mother,  
'Woman, here is your son.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the

disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that  
hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that all was now  
finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I  
am thirsty.' <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was standing  
there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a  
branch of hyssop and held it to his  
mouth. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he  
said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and  
gave up his spirit.

### **Jesus' Side Is Pierced**

<sup>31</sup> Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews  
did not want the bodies left on the cross during  
the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was  
a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to  
have the legs of the crucified men broken and the  
bodies removed. <sup>32</sup>Then the soldiers came and  
broke the legs of the first and of the other who  
had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they  
came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead,  
they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the  
soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once  
blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>(He who saw this  
has testified so that you also may believe. His  
testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the  
truth.) <sup>36</sup>These things occurred so that the  
scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones  
shall be broken.' <sup>37</sup>And again another passage of  
scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom  
they have pierced.'

### **The Burial of Jesus**

<sup>38</sup> After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who  
was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one  
because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let  
him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him  
permission; so he came and removed his  
body. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus, who had at first come to  
Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of  
myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred  
pounds. <sup>40</sup>They took the body of Jesus and  
wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths,  
according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>Now  
there was a garden in the place where he was  
crucified, and in the garden there was a new  
tomb in which no one had ever been laid. <sup>42</sup>And

so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

### **Time to Reflect**

Today is Good Friday. Some people may ask why call it Good Friday when it wasn't really a good day because of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. For those first disciples it certainly didn't feel like it was at all, indeed for them it was probably better described as 'Black Friday' as they saw their friend and teacher die on the cross and all their hopes and dreams for the future die with him. Or so they thought. But I am jumping too far ahead here. On Good Friday we remember the day when the sky turned black and the Son of God was crucified.

A few years ago I had the privilege of being a part of a town-wide passion play which took place on Easter Saturday. I was one of the team working backstage. One powerful moment for me was during the dress rehearsal the day before on Good Friday itself. Just as the light was starting to fade we reached the crucifixion scene. Our director would have probably told me off for this but I came down from the steps at the side of the stage and on to the square to watch the scene since I wouldn't see it properly the following day. The atmosphere in that square by that point had completely changed. A few people had stopped to watch. It was that quiet that you could hear a pin drop. It isn't easy to put into words how powerful that scene was on Good Friday but I certainly felt as though I was at the foot of the cross 2000 and odd years ago watching Jesus die for us all.

The cross suggested that everything was over. But we know that it wasn't. For we know now that Easter Sunday is coming. But before then we recall and remember Jesus' suffering on the cross and all that he endured for us. He didn't have to but he did. Why? Because he loves us so much that he was prepared to die for each and every one of us. So although right now it can seem like all is dark and hopeless we need to remember that over 2000 years ago Jesus was nailed to the cross to bring us peace and hope although it can

feel that hope and peace are far away from us right now. He was nailed to the cross that we might know God's love for each and every one of us. So as we remember and reflect on the events of that first Good Friday over 2000 years ago we remember the love for us that was shown upon that cross.

Take a time to sit quietly

### **A time of prayer**

*As we remember all that happened on that first Good Friday we bring our concerns and prayers and lay them down at the foot of the cross.*

Lord Jesus Christ, on this day you sacrificed your life, upon the cross, for each and every one of us. You suffered unimaginable pain. You could have chosen not to go through with it but you did not. In doing so you showed God's love for the world.

We bring to the foot of your cross our concerns and prayers for the world in which we live. We pray for those areas of the world where there is suffering, violence and conflict. We pray for peace across the world. May the world know the love for them that you demonstrated upon the cross.

We pray Lord for the church. As the world continues to adjust to the coronavirus pandemic it needs the church more than ever. Help your church to share your love and to offer hope everywhere. Give us your guidance that your church may be equipped and strengthened for the work to which you have called it.

We bring to the foot of your cross those facing challenging times. So many people in our world are suffering. We offer our prayers for those we know who need our prayers. We place their names at the foot of the cross and ask that they may be aware of your love and strength at this difficult time.

We bring to the foot of your cross those who have died. We bring them to you in the knowledge that they are with you and that you have gathered them into your loving arms. We ask that those who mourn are comforted, knowing that their loved ones are with you and are at peace.

We kneel at the foot of your cross. We remember Lord Jesus how you showed your love for the world.

Equip us to share that message with others. Guide us in the right direction and help us to face whatever challenges lie before us. As we stand and look from the cross to your tomb and all that awaits in a few days' time remind us again of the hope and good news that we can share with others.

We ask these and all our prayers in your name.  
Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father .....*

### **Hymn: Listen to StF 270 Come and see**

or sing a verse of a hymn that comes to mind

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gizXMaQ7Y5o>

Come and see, come and see,  
come and see the King of love;  
see the purple robe and crown of thorns he wears.

Soldiers mock, rulers sneer  
as he lifts the cruel cross;  
lone and friendless now, he climbs towards the hill.

We worship at your feet,  
where wrath and mercy meet,  
and a guilty world is washed  
by love's pure stream.  
For us he was made sin --  
oh, help me take it in.  
Deep wounds of love cry out  
'Father, forgive.'  
I worship, I worship  
the Lamb who was slain.

Come and weep, come and mourn  
for your sin that pierced him there;  
so much deeper than the wounds of thorn and nail.

All our pride, all our greed,  
all our fallenness and shame;  
and the Lord has laid the punishment on him.

Man of heaven, born to earth  
to restore us to your heaven.

Here we bow in awe beneath your searching eyes.

From your tears comes our joy,  
from your death our life shall spring;  
by your resurrection power we shall rise.

*Graham Kendrick (b. 1950)*

### **A prayer of blessing**

Loving God

We step away from the cross and look towards the tomb in which your Son was laid and from which he was raised. As we journey away from the cross towards the tomb and onward to resurrection, we go in the knowledge that you are with us

every step of the way. Amen.

Original Materials by Rebekah S M Fairhurst  
Bolton Methodist Mission

All

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Local Churches 363610 CCCLi

We are grateful to all the Ministers and Local Preachers from around the Connexion who have contributed to Worship at Home. This resource is administrated by Ministries: Vocations and Worship in the Connexional Team.

For more worship resources see

[The Bible \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)

[Singing the Faith Plus \(methodist.org.uk\)](http://methodist.org.uk)