

St John's Church, Kidlington
Good Friday 2024, 2pm
An hour at the cross

Introduction and opening prayer

The Decision

Hymn: My song is love unknown,
My Savior's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, That for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from His blest throne
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But oh, my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need his life did spend.

Reading: Matthew 27: 11 – 26

Reflection Pilate

Reading Matthew 27: 27 – 31

The Journey

Hymn: Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

Reading: Luke 23: 26 – 32

Reflection and Prayer

Simon and the women

The cross

Hymn: They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
That He His foes from thence might free.

Reading: Luke 23: 33 – 43

Reflection and prayer

The thieves

Sing: Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom

Reading: Luke 23: 44 – 49

Silence

Hymn: 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?

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts

Litany of Reconciliation (Coventry Cathedral)

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation,
race from race, class from class, **Father, forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations
to possess what is not their own, **Father, forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands
and lays waste the earth, **Father, forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,
Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned,
the homeless, the refugee, **Father, forgive.**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,
Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,
Father, forgive.

*Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, as God in
Christ forgave you.*

Cross-making

Hymn: In life no house, no home,
my Lord on earth might have;
In death, no friendly tomb
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heaven was his home;
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossland

The tomb

Reading: Luke 23: 50 – 56

Reflection and prayer Joseph

Hymn: How deep the Father's love for us,
 How vast beyond all measure,
 That He should give His only Son
 To make a wretch His treasure.
 How great the pain of searing loss -
 The Father turns His face away,
 As wounds which mar the Chosen One
 Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart -
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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The Lord's Prayer

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
Be with us all, evermore. Amen**