

GOOD FRIDAY 2025.

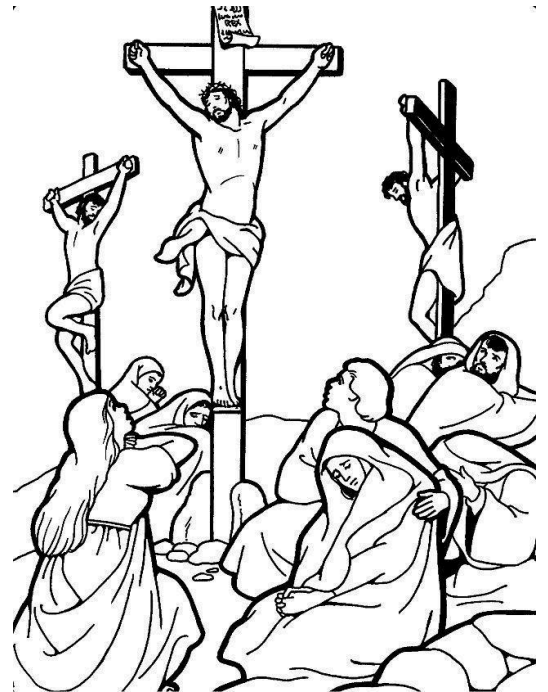
Welcome to this service of meditation, scripture, music and silence drawing on the themes from our Lent Course on Discipleship with the Prophets.

Please sit / kneel/ stand wherever you feel comfortable and move if and as you wish.

You are welcome to stay for as much or as little of the time as you are able.

'Life and death'

There is a riddle about life and death:
'The man who saves his life will lose it;
The man who loses his life will save it.'
To save one's life means to hold on to it,
To love it and to be attached to it,
And therefore to fear death.
To lose one's life is to let go of it,
To be detached from it,
And therefore to be willing to die.
The paradox is that
The man who fears death is already dead,
Whereas the man who has ceased to fear death
Has at that moment begun to live.
A life that is genuine and worthwhile
Is only possible once one is willing to die.
Jesus went to his death knowingly and willingly.



Albert Nolan OP (b. 1934)

St Mary's, Kidlington

12 noon – 3pm

12.00 Remaining Faithful



Hymn 63 My song is Love Unknown
Reading: Lk. 22.39-46 *Jesus wrestles
with the cost of faithfulness*

Meditation: 'The Cost of Faithfulness'

Silence and Prayer

Song: Faithful One

Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, you are my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on you
I call out to you, again and again
I call out to you, again and again

You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm
Your love is, the anchor
My hope is in You alone

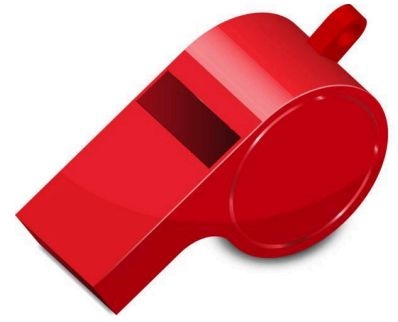
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I call out to you, again and again

You are my rock in times of trouble
You lift me up when I fall down
All through the storm
Your love is, the anchor
My hope is in You alone

Your love is, the anchor
My hope is in You, My hope is in You
Our hope is in You alone *Songwriters: Brian Robert
Doerksen*

12.30: Speaking the Truth

Reading: John 18. 19-38 *Jesus speaks truth, Peter denies Him, and Pilate asks what truth is.*



Meditation: 'Truth and Power'

Song: 'In this Darkness' *John Bell*

Silence and Prayer

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless." (Bonhoeffer)

Hymn 523: Were you there?

1pm: Doing Justice with Mercy



Reading: Luke 23.13-25 *Pilate sends an innocent man to death*

Meditation: "Mr President, in the Name of Our God, Have Mercy"

Song: 'See This Child'

Silence and Prayer

Hymn

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.
We worship at your feet...

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.
We worship at your feet...

1.30: Repenting and Being Renewed

Reading: Luke 23.32-43 *Jesus forgives, and a criminal repents*

Meditation: 'Forgiveness and Freedom'



Music: 'Offertorium' from Requiem by Gabriel Faure

Silence and Prayer

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. (*Joel 2. 12-13*)

Hymn 67: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

2pm Intercession and Veneration

Choir anthem "Hear my prayer, O Lord" - Thomas Tomkins. *Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my crying come unto thee. Hide not thy face from me in the time of my trouble: incline thine ear unto me, O hear me and that right soon.*

Intercession

Choir anthem: 'Faithful Cross' – King John IV of Portugal
*Faithful cross above all other, one and only noble tree.
None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be.
Sweetest wood and sweetest iron, sweetest weight is hung on thee!*

The Veneration of the Cross

Priest: This is the wood of the cross
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

All: Come, let us worship.

*Each of us is then invited to come forward
and venerate the cross.*

Hymn: 126 The King of Love my Shepherd is

The Distribution of communion from the reserved
sacrament

Our Father...

Lamb of God.....

*We stand / kneel in a semi circle around the cross.
The church does not celebrate Holy Communion on Good
Friday, so today we receive pre-consecrated bread, and
only in one kind.*

2.40 Worshipping in Righteousness

Reading Luke 23.44-50 *The centurion declares Jesus
innocent and the bystanders go home beating their
breasts.*

Meditation: And Will we be Changed?

Silence

*"I came that they might have life, and have it in
abundance" (John 10.10)*

Hymn 117: Praise to the Holiest in the height

**3pm: Holy God, Holy and Strong,
Holy and Immortal, Have mercy on us**

We leave in silence.