

**Good Friday 2026.
Watching, Waiting, Weeping at the Cross**

Welcome to this service of meditation, scripture, music and silence.

You are welcome to stay for as much or as little of the time as you are able. As far as possible, please come and go during the hymns.

Please sit / kneel/ stand wherever you feel comfortable and move as you wish. You may wish to visit the prayer stations around the church at any point..

12.00 The First Hour: Who Was With Jesus?



Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (67)

Reading: Matthew 27.27-44

Meditation: **"Soldiers, Priests, Criminals and a Crowd"**

Symbolic Action: Nails.

Music: *'Father Forgive Them'* From *Seven Last Words*
by James Macmillan

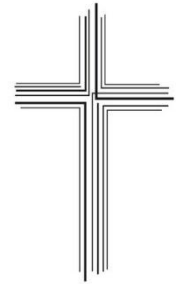
12.30 Hymn: My Song is Love Unknown (63)

Reading: Luke 23.26-34, 39-43

Meditation: **"Jesus's Faithful Followers"**

Music: *Sweetly Broken* by Jeremy Riddle

1 PM **The Second Hour:
What are We Doing Here?**



Hymn: Were you there? (523)

Reading: **Good Friday** – by Christina Rossetti

Am I a stone, and not a sheep,
That I can stand, O Christ, beneath Thy cross,
To number drop by drop Thy blood's slow loss,
And yet not weep?
Not so those women loved
Who with exceeding grief lamented Thee;
Not so fallen Peter, weeping bitterly;
Not so the thief was moved;
Not so the Sun and Moon
Which hid their faces in a starless sky,
A horror of great darkness at broad noon –
I, only I.
Yet give not o'er,
But seek Thy sheep, true Shepherd of the flock;
Greater than Moses, turn and look once more
And smite a rock.

Meditation: **Finding Our Place at the Cross**

Symbolic Action: Crosses.

Music: Kyrie from *The Armed Man. A Mass for Peace*
by Karl Jenkins

1:30 Hymn: Beauty for brokenness
 Hope for despair
 Lord, in the suffering
 This is our prayer
 Bread for the children
 Justice, joy, peace
 Sunrise to sunset
 Your kingdom increase!

Shelter for fragile lives
 Cures for their ills
 Work for the craftsman
 Trade for their skills
 Land for the dispossessed
 Rights for the weak
 Voices to plead the cause
 Of those who can't speak
 God of the poor, Friend of the weak
 Give us compassion we pray
 Melt our cold hearts, Let tears fall like rain
 Come, change our love from a spark to a flame

Refuge from cruel wars
 Havens from fear
 Cities for sanctuary
 Freedoms to share
 Peace to the killing-fields
 Scorched earth to green
 Christ for the bitterness
 His cross for the pain

Rest for the ravaged earth
 Oceans and streams
 Plundered and poisoned
 Our future, our dreams
 Lord, end our madness
 Carelessness, greed
 Make us content with
 The things that we need
 Lighten our darkness
 God of the poor, Friend of the weak

Breathe on this flame
 Until your justice
 Burns brightly again
 Until the nations
 Learn of your ways
 Seek your salvation
 And bring you their praise
 God of the poor, Friend of the weak

Graham Kendrick

Reading: **My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?** Andrea Skevington

You felt your generous heart forsaken,
 you felt the absence of the one who helps,
 who was beside you, in the beginning,
 who knew you from before first light.
 We know too well the sparseness
 of your isolation, without light,
 and companionless,
 in the darkness of our own long night.
 And yet, within our dark, we find you there,
 Find you have waited for us long days, and years,
 while our poor eyes have
 grown accustomed to the dark,
 have learned at last to see you through our tears.
 So as you know our pain and feel it,
 you break our separation with your own.
 Help us see the forsaken all around us,
 invisible and in darkness, but seen by you.
 May we seek each other in the dark,
 May we have courage to cry out,
 like you, and so be found.

Meditation: **The Cross in the World Today**

Prayers of intercession

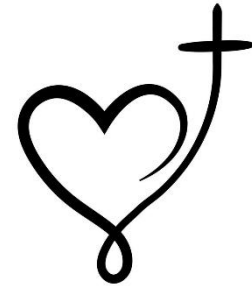
2pm **The Third Hour:
What Does it All Mean?**

Choir: "O vos omnes" by Casals

Reading: Matthew 27.45-54

Meditation: **So How do We Live?**

Symbolic Action: Water



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.

Choir: "Faithful Cross" by King John IV of Portugal

The Distribution of Communion

Our Father...

Lamb of God.....

We stand around the cross to receive communion

Reading: Matthew 27.57-61

Meditation: **Emptiness and Finality**

Symbolic Action: Stones.

Hymn: Praise to the Holiest in the height (117)

3 PM

**Holy God,
Holy and Strong,
Holy and Immortal,
have mercy on us**

We leave in silence

Our Final pages are blank as Easter Saturday
is a blank waiting day.....

.....But do join us on Easter Sunday
at 5.30am
followed by a cooked breakfast
Or 10am for a
big community celebration.
You and all your friends and families will
be very welcome