

A service for Good Friday 10th April 2020.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.

That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

StF 284 There is a green hill far away
There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven.
He died to make us good,
that we might go at last to heaven,
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin.
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven and let us in.

Oh, dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood,
And try his works to do.

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross
so that he might draw the whole world to himself.
Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation,
may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy and everliving God, look graciously on us now
for whom our Saviour Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed,
and to suffer death upon the cross; and grant us to grow
into the fullness of new life in Christ who now is alive and glorified
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples.

We ask you for your mercy and your help
Lord, forgive:
Christ have mercy

We fail to share the pain of your suffering:
Lord, forgive:
Christ have mercy

We run away from those who abuse you:

Lord, forgive:

Christ have mercy

We are afraid of being known to belong to you:

Lord, forgive:

Christ have mercy

May the Lord enrich us with his grace, nourish us with his blessing;
defend us in trouble and keep us from evil;

May the Lord accept our prayers,
and absolve us from our offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. ***Amen.***

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN...

Reading John 18:1-27

Silence

Reading John 18:28-40

Silence

Reading John 19:1-27

Silence

Reading John 19:28-42

Silence

A thought for Good Friday

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,
spread's o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the world
and al the world 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.
Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

The Word (R.S Thomas)
Enough that we are on our way;
never ask of us where.
Some of us run, some loiter:
some of us turn aside
to erect the Calvary
that is our signpost, arms
pointing in opposite directions
to bring us in the end
to the same place, so impossible
is it to escape love. Imperishable
scarecrow, recipient of our casts-off,
shame us until what is a swear-
word only becomes at last
the word that was in the beginning.

***O Christ, we are stripped bare by your suffering.
You see our dreams, our demons,
and the secrets we keep even from ourselves.
Forgive all that needs to be forgiven,
heal all that needs to be healed,
awaken all the good that sleeps in us,
banish all the fears that paralyse us.
Put the power of your cross into our lives for ever, and clothe us with hope and love. Amen.***

BLESSING
Lord Jesus Christ,
the story of your suffering is written on our hearts,
and the salvation of the world is in your outstretched hands.
Keep your victory always before our eyes,
your praise on our lips,
your peace in our lives. **Amen.**