

Good Friday Order of Online Service

2nd April 2021

7 pm



Worship led by Rev Dr's Nanda & André Groenewald

Music from Catriona Lachlan & Harry Thomson

Bible reading by Peter MacLean

Good Friday Prayer by Rev Alison Quilter



"At noon the sky became extremely dark. The darkness lasted three hours" Mark 15:33

Words of welcome

Worshipping God Together

Call to worship:

Insults, torture, mocking, whipping,
accusations, beatings, shouts of 'Crucify! Crucify!'

A journey to a hill, the carrying of a cross,
wood, nails and human flesh hammered together.

The most awful of days! In the middle of it all, Jesus,
the one who was innocent, but the one who died.

We greet you in the Name of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen

MP 536 On a hill far away

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Til my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

O, the old rugged cross so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me; for the dear Lamb of God
left His glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.
So, I'll cherish.....

In the old rugged cross stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see; for 'twas on that old cross
Jesus suffered and died to pardon and sanctify me.
So I'll cherish.....

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
When His glory for ever I'll share.

So I'll cherish.....

Opening prayer and Lord's prayer

We ask this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, the power, the glory for ever. Amen.

Reflection: Carry the cross!

"Agnus Dei" on flute by Catriona Lachlan

Reflection: Carry my own cross.

Reflecting on God's Word

Bible Reading Mark 15: 21- 39 The Crucifixion

²¹ There was a man walking by, coming from work, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. They made him carry Jesus' cross. ²²⁻²⁴ The soldiers brought Jesus to Golgotha, meaning "Skull Hill." They offered him a mild painkiller (wine mixed with myrrh), but he wouldn't take it. And they nailed him to the cross. They divided up his clothes and threw dice to see who would get them.

²⁵⁻³⁰ They nailed him up at nine o'clock in the morning. The charge against him—THE KING OF THE JEWS—was scrawled across a sign. Along with him, they crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left. People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament: "You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days—so show us your stuff! Save yourself! If you're really God's Son, come down from that cross!"

³¹⁻³² The high priests, along with the religion scholars, were right there mixing it up with the rest of them, having a great time poking fun at him: "He saved others—but he can't save himself! Messiah, is he? King of Israel? Then let him climb down from that cross. We'll all become believers then!" Even the men crucified alongside him joined in the mockery.

³³⁻³⁴ At noon the sky became extremely dark. The darkness lasted three hours. At three o'clock, Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

35-36 Some of the bystanders who heard him said, "Listen, he's calling for Elijah." Someone ran off, soaked a sponge in sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

37-39 But Jesus, with a loud cry, gave his last breath. At that moment the Temple curtain ripped right down the middle. When the Roman captain standing guard in front of him saw that he had quit breathing, he said, "This has to be the Son of God!"

Sermon

Closing prayer

CH4 554 Rock of ages

Rock of ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labours of my hands, can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone: Thou must save, ad thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;
Stained by sin, to thee I fly; wash me, Saviour, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when my eyelids close in death,
When I soar through realms unknown, see thee on thy judgement throne,
Rock of ages cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778)

Blessing





A meditation
on the events
of Good
Friday,
through the
eyes and
thoughts of a
bystander

Look at your hands.
It was hands like yours
that were nailed to the cross.

Look at your feet.
It was feet like yours
the stumbled their way to Calvary.

Look into the eyes of your neighbours.
It was for ones like these,
that Jesus was crucified.

Look at yourself
It was for you
that Jesus died.
