

## WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020. Good Friday

### INTRODUCTION:

*Today we meet at the cross. The crowds that welcomed Jesus on Sunday have turned; his disciples have fled. Only a faithful few remain: his mother, John his beloved disciple, and the women that followed him.*

*Today we join in waiting with them at the foot of the cross, to keep watch with Jesus in his journey down into the darkness of the cross and to draw near to him in love and adoration. Do not feel you have to do this service at 10.30am. There is a tradition of holding an Easter vigil which lasts from 12noon to 3pm, the hours of darkness and abandonment Jesus experienced- this is for the hardcore only! Any time from 9am to 3pm would be appropriate.*

### Hymn: There is a green hill far away

#### Opening responses

Lord Jesus, in your suffering,

**May I/we watch and wait with you.**

Lord Jesus, in your darkness,

**May I/we watch and wait with you.**

Lord Jesus, in your death,

**May I/we watch and wait with you.**



#### The Collect for Good Friday

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus

we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love:

in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet

all that we have and all that we are, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### Confession:

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

We ask for your mercy and your help. When we take our ease rather than watch with you:

Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we bestow a kiss of peace yet nurse enmity in our hearts: Lord, forgive us.

**Christ have mercy.**

When we strike at those who hurt us rather than stretch out our hands to bless: Lord, forgive us. **Christ have mercy.**

When we deny that we know you for fear of the world and its scorn: Lord, forgive us.

**Christ have mercy.**

#### A reassurance.

May the Father forgive me/us by the death of his Son

and strengthen me/us to live in the power of the Spirit all my/our days. **Amen.**

### Hymn: When I survey

**Read Mark 15. 1-41**

**Reflection-** You may just wish to sit with your own thoughts. Perhaps something has struck you in the story for the first time. Alternatively, you may wish to read the included reflection or poem entitled “Good Friday”.

**Hymn: My song is love unknown**

**Prayer-** *Feel free to sit in silence or put on some instrumental music and use your own prayers or just this one.*

This Good Friday we join our voices to the words of Jesus on the cross,  
and the cry of all who are abandoned, “My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Before we race in quickly with the triumphant answer, or the desire to set things right,  
we need to stand alongside this ancient cry of dereliction.

So today we place ourselves with all those who cry out  
for food and justice, for work and healing,  
for hope and love, for faith and for meaning:  
we hear their pain and the pain of Jesus Christ.

And because we know that in two days we will be celebrating Easter Sunday,  
do not let us deny the suffering of Christ and of this world.

Today we cry out about: *(world and local situations may be named here)*  
O God, our God, we cry out to You- do not forsake us. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn: On a hill far away.**

**Closing prayer:**

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered  
and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in  
the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, **Amen.**

**Dismissal:**

We travel on in the power of the Spirit of Christ,  
To walk through darkness and uncertainty; towards the joy of Easter Day.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **A REFLECTION ON THE CRY OF DERELICTION: Mark 15- 33-39.** By Canon J. John.

‘At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*”– which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”’ Two things stand out: the intense universal darkness and the cry, so appalling that it was remembered by the first Christians in its original language of Aramaic.

Before we think about how Jesus prays it is worth noticing that, even in this darkest hour, Jesus does pray. Although in agony and in despair, he keeps faith. He was without sin to the last.

Yet it is *how* Jesus prays here that is most striking. Luke records Jesus praying from the cross, ‘Father, forgive...’ (Luke 23.34). He normally addressed God with that word of close family trust, ‘Abba’ or ‘Father’. But here, in the midst of a darkness that mirrors his spiritual state, Jesus is reduced to praying with the formal address of ‘God’.

Yes, it is a quotation from Psalm 22, but that cannot conceal a real sense of desolation and separation. No human being can understand fully what was going on here.

The best interpretation is that Jesus, united with the Father from all eternity, is now experiencing separation from God the Father.

Christians have seen in these appalling words the expression of the great principle of exchange that runs throughout the Gospel. On the cross, for those three hours, Jesus took upon himself our sin, became distanced from God the Father and bore the punishment that should have been ours.

To put it in terms of relationships, Christ’s separation as the Son of God allowed our adoption as children of God.

As St Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5:21: ‘God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.’ Jesus went to a place of separation so that we might never need to be separated from God. He cried out these words of abandonment precisely to ensure that his followers should never have to say them.

**Do you feel abandoned by God?** Talk to Jesus- he truly understands.

## **Good Friday**

With Brutal efficiency,  
They hammer in the nails.  
Quickly there work is completed,  
the punishment routine.

Guilty as charged,  
"Jesus King of the Jews"!  
Jeers of hatred meet his Majesty-  
agony!

Every breath is counted at first,  
He forces himself to breathe.  
The cross is made secure,  
It's just a matter of time.

He despairs at the woman's tears,  
"Mother this is your Son."  
"Son this is your Mother,"  
Selflessly he assures her survival.

His executioners, those who placed him there,  
are unknowingly cleared of their guilt.  
As he asks his Father to forgive them  
for their ignorance.

He looks at the beam above him,  
he recognises an unread sign.  
Which answers why God allowed this to happen,  
"Made in Nazareth" "It Is Finished!"

Eclipse,  
Earthquake.  
The curtain tears.  
The barrier has been breached.

*Author unknown.*