



BALLINA & LENNOX HEAD ANGLICANS

“COUCH CHURCH”: WORSHIPPING GOD AT HOME FRIDAY 10 APRIL 2020 GOOD FRIDAY

Ctrl+Click on [Good Friday Couch Church](#) to take you to the service on YouTube.

Gathering Prayer:

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.

Prayer of the Day:

Merciful God,
who gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross:
save us from hardness of heart,
that, seeing him who died for us,
we may repent, confess our sin,
and receive your overflowing love,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small:
love so amazing, so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)
TIS 342

Readings:

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

See, my servant shall prosper;

he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

Just as there were many who were astonished at him

—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

so he shall startle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;

for that which had not been told them they shall see,

and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

For he grew up before him like a young plant,

and like a root out of dry ground;

he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;

and as one from whom others hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities

and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken,

struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,

crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,

and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have all turned to our own way,

and the Lord has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he did not open his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,

so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.
They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.
Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Psalm 22:1-11

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.
All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;
“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John

John: Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas

brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them,

Jesus: Whom are you looking for?

John: They answered,

Soldiers: Jesus of Nazareth.

John: Jesus replied,

Jesus: I am he.

John: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he,' they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

Jesus: Whom are you looking for?

John: And they said,

Soldiers: Jesus of Nazareth.

John: Jesus answered,

Jesus: I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.

John: This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?

John: So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter,

a Woman: You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?

John: Peter said,

Peter: I am not.

John: Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching.

Jesus answered,

Jesus: I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.

John: When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying,

a Soldier: Is that how you answer the high priest?

John: Jesus answered,

Jesus: If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

John: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him,

Soldiers

and Slaves: You are not also one of his disciples, are you?

John: Peter denied it and said,
Peter: I am not.
John: One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,
a Slave: Did I not see you in the garden with him?
John: Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.
Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,
Pilate: What accusation do you bring against this man?
John: They answered,
Chief Priests: If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.
John: Pilate said to them,
Pilate: Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.
John: The Jews replied,
Chief Priests: We are not permitted to put anyone to death.
John: (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)
Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,
Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?
John: Jesus answered,
Jesus: Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?
John: Pilate replied,
Pilate: I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?
John: Jesus answered,
Jesus: My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.
John: Pilate asked him,
Pilate: So you are a king?
John: Jesus answered,
Jesus: You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.
John: Pilate asked him,
Pilate: What is truth?
John: After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them,
Pilate: I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?
John: They shouted in reply,
Chief Priests: Not this man, but Barabbas!
John: Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.
They kept coming up to him, saying,
Soldiers: Hail, King of the Jews!
John: and striking him on the face.
Pilate went out again and said to them,
Pilate: Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.
John: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.
Pilate said to them,
Pilate: Here is the man!

John: When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,
Chief Priests
& Soldiers: Crucify him! Crucify him!
John: Pilate said to them,
Pilate: Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.
John: The Jews answered him,
Chief Priests: We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.

John: Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus,
Pilate: Where are you from?
John: But Jesus gave him no answer.
Pilate therefore said to him,
Pilate: Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?
John: Jesus answered him,
Jesus: You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.

John: From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out,
Chief Priests: If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.

John: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon.
Pilate said to the Jews,
Pilate: Here is your King!
John: They cried out,
Chief Priests: Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!
John: Pilate asked them,
Pilate: Shall I crucify your King?
John: The chief priests answered,
Chief Priests: We have no king but the emperor.

John: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.
Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.'
Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.
Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,
Chief Priests: Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'
John: Pilate answered,
Pilate: What I have written I have written.

John: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.
So they said to one another,
Soldiers: Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.
John: This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.' And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's

sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother,

Jesus: Woman, here is your son.
 John: Then he said to the disciple,
 Jesus: Here is your mother.
 John: And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture),
 Jesus: I am thirsty.
 John: A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.
 When Jesus had received the wine, he said,
 Jesus: It is finished.
 John: Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe.

His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

John 18:1-19:42 (NRSV)

Reflection

Veneration of the cross

During this time of devotion and reflection, you might wish to gaze upon the cross on screen. If you have a cross in your room with you, respond in any way that is appropriate for you.

Intercessions:

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father
for people everywhere according to their needs.

The response to the prayers is: Father, forgive us in your mercy.

Loving Father, as we are locked in our homes, spiritually we continue our journey with your Son, from the joy of his entry into Jerusalem just five days ago, to this day where he was falsely accused, mocked, and condemned to death, Father forgive us for our part in his death.

Father, forgive us in your mercy.

We pray for all who govern during this time of this deadly cloud, overshadowing us with this virus. May the lawmakers and administrators reach out to all, so that none will be denied medical and financial help, and justice.

Father, forgive us in your mercy.

As your Son was denied by those who walked with him and deserted him in his time of need, Father forgive us for the times when we have denied him, and deserted or betrayed our loved ones in their time of need.

Father, forgive us in your mercy.

Your Son's hands and feet were fixed by nails upon a rough wooden cross, so that we would be rescued from our sin, and the power of eternal death. We bring before you the Church universal, for clergy as they administer your holy word and sacraments in difficult times.

Father, forgive us in your mercy.

Father, as your Son felt lonely, rejected during his trial, and isolated from his mother and friends, we too feel the effects of being locked away from our loved ones during this period of confinement to our homes.

We give thanks for all who staff our hospitals, and all health workers. For all who provide for our daily needs, we give thanks. Comfort all who have lost loved ones, for those who are struggling with health issues, and for all who feel lonely and lost.

Father, forgive us in your mercy.

As Mary, and the other women, and the beloved disciple, stood near your Son's cross, may we too stand spiritually with him this day, reflecting on his love, so that we may be able to accept his forgiveness for our betrayals of his love, and, at the end of our earthly life, may we share with all the saints, and enter with them into Paradise with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, forgive us in your mercy.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray-

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Confession:

Lord Jesus Christ, as your disciples we confess that we have failed both you and those people who suffer innocently, as your disciples also failed you from the first.

When we are tempted to betray you for the sake of selfish gain,

Christ have mercy.

Lord, forgive us and help us.

When we do not keep watch in prayer,

and seek to avoid sharing in your suffering,

Christ have mercy.

Lord, forgive us and help us.

When we choose the way of the sword,

the way of violence in place of the path of peace,

Christ have mercy.

Lord, forgive us and help us.

When we run away from difficult situations and desert those who need us,

Christ have mercy.

Lord, forgive us and help us.

When we do not admit to being your followers,

and are fearful of what others might say,

Christ have mercy.

Lord, forgive us and help us.

When we spurn your sacrificial love

and will not offer you the sacrifice of our own lives,

Christ have mercy.

Lord, forgive us and help us.

Cleanse us from our sins

and graciously restore us to your service.

For your praise and glory alone.

Amen.

Absolution

Hymn: Be Still My Soul

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side:
bear patiently the cross of grief and pain:
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future as he has the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,
all now mysterious shall be clear at last.
Be still my soul: the tempests still obey
his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

Be still my soul: when dearest friends depart
and all is darkened in the vale of tears,
then you shall better know his love, his heart,
who comes to soothe your sorrow, calm your fears.
Be still, my soul: for Jesus can restore
the trust and hope that strengthened you before.

Be still my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
sorrow forgotten, love's pure joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last

Katharina von Schlegel (1694-?)
TIS 123

Concluding Prayer:

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

Look at your feet.
It was feet like yours
that 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. **Amen.**