

# St Mary's Church Shirehampton

## Good Friday Service

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

### GATHERING WORDS:

Along this way

**We have walked with Christ.**

Along this way

**We have shared his table.**

Along this way

**He has washed our feet.**

Along this way

**We approach the cross.**

Along this way

**We fear the path.**

Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

The cross faces us with the stark reality of death,  
and the consequences of human sin.

It brings us to repentance and recognition of our need for grace.

It is here in apparent defeat that God's love triumphs.

## **Hebrews 10: 16 - 25**

<sup>16</sup> 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds',

<sup>17</sup>he also adds,

'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

<sup>18</sup>Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup>by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), <sup>21</sup>and since we have a great priest over the house of God, <sup>22</sup>let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. <sup>23</sup>Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup>And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence is kept.*

## ***Psalm 22***

<sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.**

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**<sup>4</sup>In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

<sup>5</sup>To you they cried, and were saved;  
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

**<sup>6</sup>But I am a worm, and not human;  
scorned by others, and despised by the people.**

<sup>7</sup>All who see me mock at me;  
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;  
<sup>8</sup>**“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—  
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”**

<sup>9</sup>Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

<sup>10</sup>**On you I was cast from my birth,  
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**

<sup>11</sup>Do not be far from me,  
for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

<sup>12</sup>**Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;**

<sup>13</sup>they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

<sup>14</sup>**I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;**

<sup>15</sup>my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

<sup>16</sup>**For dogs are all around me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me.  
My hands and feet have shriveled;**

<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;

<sup>18</sup>**they divide my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.**

<sup>19</sup>But you, O Lord, do not be far away!  
O my help, come quickly to my aid!

<sup>20</sup>**Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog!**

<sup>21</sup>Save me from the mouth of the lion!

From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

<sup>22</sup>**I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:**

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

<sup>24</sup>**For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

**<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord,**

<sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it

## **HYMN**

1 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.

2 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.

3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingling down:  
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature  
mine,  
that were an off'ring far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

## THE PASSION GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN

*Please remain seated until invited to stand*

### John 18: 1 - end of 19

18 After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. <sup>2</sup>Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' <sup>5</sup>They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. <sup>7</sup>Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.'<sup>\*</sup> <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' <sup>9</sup>This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?' <sup>12</sup>So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. <sup>13</sup>First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. <sup>14</sup>Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

<sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' <sup>18</sup>Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

<sup>19</sup> Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. <sup>20</sup>Jesus answered, '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. <sup>21</sup>Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, 'Is that how you answer the high priest?' <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered, 'If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?' <sup>24</sup>Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

<sup>25</sup> Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.'<sup>26</sup> One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?'<sup>27</sup> Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup> So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?'<sup>30</sup> They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.'<sup>31</sup> Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.'<sup>32</sup> (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

<sup>33</sup> Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?'<sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?'<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, '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.'<sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, '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.'<sup>38</sup> Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him.'<sup>39</sup> 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?'<sup>40</sup> They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

<sup>19</sup> Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.<sup>2</sup> And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.<sup>3</sup> They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face.<sup>4</sup> Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.'<sup>5</sup> So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!'<sup>6</sup> When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.'<sup>7</sup> The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

<sup>8</sup> Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. <sup>9</sup>He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. <sup>10</sup>Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' <sup>11</sup>Jesus answered him, '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.' <sup>12</sup>From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup>Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' <sup>15</sup>They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' <sup>16</sup>Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; <sup>17</sup>and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. <sup>18</sup>There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. <sup>19</sup>Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' <sup>22</sup>Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

<sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' <sup>27</sup>Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

<sup>28</sup> After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup>Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. <sup>33</sup>But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup>Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup>(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) <sup>36</sup>These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' <sup>37</sup>And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

<sup>38</sup> 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. <sup>39</sup>Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. <sup>40</sup>They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

## REFLECTION

*You are invited to light a candle and lay it at the foot of the cross*

## CONFESSION

God shows great love for us in that  
while we were still sinners Christ died for us.

**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.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

We have turned our hearts to God in repentance  
and our sins are laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ.

In the name of the living God,  
your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

Lord Jesus Christ you were illegally tried. Unjustly condemned.

We pray for all those who are powerless in the face of power,  
who suffer through fear and the greed of others.

When the innocent suffer

**Lord have mercy**

When the poor are exploited

**Christ have mercy**

When prisoners are abused and tortured

**Lord have mercy**

Where truth is the casualty of power

**Let there be justice**

Where hope is crushed by oppression

**Let there be justice**

Christ who prayed in Gethsemane

**Pray for those who weep.**

Christ falsely accused and condemned.

**Vindicate those who are denied justice.**

Christ whipped and tortured

**Stand with those who suffer.**

Christ who walked the way of tears

**Strengthen those whose way is hard and painful**

Christ who died on a cross

**Comfort those who are dying**

Strengthen us to maintain the truth of love by prophetic words and acts of  
justice even in the face of the world's condemnation.

So that sharing your suffering we may also share your victory over all that  
destroys life. **Amen**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom  
in the words our Saviour taught us.

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## **HYMN**

1 How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

2 Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

3 I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

*Stuart Townend*  
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## **THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS**

*We stand and face the cross*

We glory in your cross, O Lord  
**and praise you for your mighty resurrection;**  
**For by virtue of your cross joy has come into the world.**

God be gracious to us and bless us:  
and make his face shine upon us,  
**Let your ways be known on earth:**  
**Your liberating power among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God  
let all the peoples praise you.  
**We glory in your cross, O Lord,**  
**and praise you for your mighty resurrection:**  
**For by virtue of your cross joy has come into the world.**

## **HYMN**

1 There is a green hill far away,  
without a city wall,  
where the dear Lord was crucified  
who died to save us all.

2 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.

3 He died that we might be forgiv'n,  
he died to make us good;  
that we might go at last to heav'n,  
saved by his precious blood.

4 There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin;  
he only could unlock the gate  
of heav'n, and let us in.

5 O 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)*  
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## **FINAL PRAYER AND DEPARTURE:**

When hope has left  
**Still we watch and wait.**  
When darkness prevails  
**Still we search for light.**  
When the road is hidden  
**Still we seek a guide.**

Christ of the cross,  
hold us in these moments  
as we wait for a garden vision,  
a mealtime revelation,  
a locked room blessing,  
and a lakeside renewal.  
We go in peace.

***We leave in silence.***