

**Christ Church
New Mill**

GOOD FRIDAY

**April 14th 2006
7.30pm**

***Meditations on the Cross
in Music and Words***

Welcome to Christ Church, New Mill, for the annual Good Friday service of music and words.

You may like to meditate on the words on this page before the service starts.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3: 16*

For who is Christ, unless that which “in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”? This Word of God “became flesh and dwelt among us”; for he was incapable of dying for us until he had assumed mortal flesh for us. *St. Augustine*

Seeing the sorrow and desolation of us, he was made sorry through his kindness and love. All the time he could suffer, he did suffer for us, and sorrow too

....This is his meaning: “How could I not, out of love for you, do all I can for you for love of you I am ready to die often, regardless of the suffering.” *Julian of Norwich*

The sin of Pilate - cowardice and political time-serving; the sin of Caiaphas - spiritual pride and ecclesiastical time-serving; the sin of the soldiers, the crowd - brutality, blood-lust, the blind following the majority. These sins are not museum specimens, impaled on pins in glass cases, strange reactions of long-ago people in far-away places. Far from it. They are the sins of Acacia Avenue and Laburnum Grove - the sins of ordinary people. Your sins and my sins. It is these, the penny-plain treacheries of John Citizen and his unglamorous wife, which flame in the heat of the moment and flare to the sudden murder of God. *P.W. Turner*

(See: <http://www.dur.ac.uk/StChads/chaplain/why5.htm>)

*During the service, please join in the items printed in **bold type**.*

Please stand at the sound of the bell. The choir sings:

I wonder as I wander out under the sky, How Jesus, the Saviour,
did come for to die. For poor ornery people like you and like I: I
wonder as I wander, Out under the sky.

(from an Appalachian carol)

The collect for Good Friday:

Almighty God, we beseech you graciously to look with mercy
upon this your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was con-
tent to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men,
and to suffer death upon the cross;

Who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God
now and for ever:

Amen

Processional Hymn

**Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
Sing the last, the dread affray;
O'er the Cross, the victor's trophy,
Sound the high triumphal lay,
How, the pains of death enduring,
Earth's redeemer won the day.**

**Now the thirty years are ended
Which on earth he willed to see,
Willingly he meets his Passion,
Born to set his people free;
On the cross the Lamb is lifted,
There the sacrifice to be.**

**Faithful Cross, above all other,
One and only noble tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
None in fruit thy peer may be;
Sweetest wood and sweetest iron,
Sweetest weight is hung on thee!**

**There the nails and spear he suffers,
Vinegar and gall and reed;
From his sacred body piercèd
Blood and water both proceed:
Precious flood, which all creation
From the stain of sin hath freed.**

Venantius Fortunatus (ca 530-609) trans. J.M. Neale (1818-1866) et al.

Please kneel or sit.

Prayer.

We welcome you to this act of meditation in music and words, in which we hear again of the last moments of our Blessed Lord's life here on earth some 2000 years ago, and in which we think about the meaning of His great Sacrifice to us and all people on earth.

But first let us pray for all people on earth, that the Holy Spirit, liberated in the world through His Cross and Resurrection, may move mightily among them. We pray that their unhappy divisions may be healed, and that the witness of the church in the world may in truth be the harvest of Calvary.

Let us pray for the nations of the world that they may be brought before the judgement of Him who reigns from the Cross, and receive from Him the peace which He alone can bestow.

And let us pray for the Upper Holme Valley, and especially for New Mill, and all who live and work there, that it may be a place which does not forget the things that belong to its peace,

but welcomes its only Saviour.

And let us pray for this congregation of Christ's people, that alike in praise and service and love to one another it may show forth the glory of Christ.

And let us pray for those who are in trouble: for the weak, the oppressed, the poor and the hungry, the sick and the mentally afflicted, that upon them all, the touch of Christ's hand may fall in healing and help.

And let us thank the Father for making known to us in this blessed Cross the secrets of suffering and of victory: for crowning with glory and honour the head which we dishonoured; for enthroning his Son among the lights of heaven, and for calling us to His discipleship.

The Lord forgive us when we know not what we do;
The Lord remember us when He comes in His kingdom;
The Lord receive us as we commit ourselves into his hands.

Amen.

Reading: The trial : Mark 14: 55—64; 15: 1-5; 12-15

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find anything. Many gave false testimony against him, but their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands and in three days build another not made with hands.'" Yet even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is this that they are testifying against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest questioned him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus, "and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy! What is your verdict?" They all condemned him as deserving death.

Early in the morning, after forming a plan, the chief priests with the elders and the experts in the law and the whole Sanhedrin tied Jesus up, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. So Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He replied, "You say so." Then the chief priests began to accuse him repeatedly. So Pilate asked him again, "Have you nothing to say? See how many charges they are bringing against you!" But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

So Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you want me to do with the one you call king of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why? What has he done wrong?" But they shouted more insistently, "Crucify him!" Because he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas for them. Then after he had Jesus flogged he handed him over to be crucified.

Please stand to sing the hymn:.

**My song is love unknown,
My Saviour's love to me:
Love to the loveless shown,
That they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

**He came from His blessed throne,
Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none
The longed-for Christ would know:
But O! my Friend, my Friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend.**

**Sometimes they strew His way,
And His sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day
Hosannas to their King:
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
And for His death they thirst and cry.**

**They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of life they slay,
Yet cheerful He to suffering goes,
That He His foes from thence might free.**

**Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine;
Never was love, dear King!
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Samuel Crossman 1624-84. Music John Ireland 1879-1962.

Please sit.

Reading: The crucifixion Luke 23:26, 32-34 38-43

As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country; they placed the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. Two other men, both criminals, were also led away to be executed with him. So when they came to the place that is called "The Skull," they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. But Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." There was also an inscription over him, "This is the king of the Jews."

One of the criminals who was hanging there railed at him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we rightly so, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.

The choir sings Behold the Lamb of God. (From Messiah by G.F.

Handel 1685-1759)

Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

Reading: Jesus on the Cross (1) Matthew 27: 45-49

Now from noon until three, darkness came over all the land. At about three o'clock Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the rest said, "Leave him alone! Let's see if Elijah will come to save him."

The choir sings "Eli, Eli" (From The Passion, by F.J.Haydn 1732-1809. Words from Psalm 22)

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" O my God, look upon me, Why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint? Go not from me.

All they that see me laugh me to scorn. Hide not thou thy face from me. Thou hast been my succour. Leave me not. Forsake me not. Turn thee unto me; for I am desolate and in misery. My hope hath been in thee O Lord: Lord in Thee have I trusted: I have said, Thou art my God.

Reading: Jesus on the cross (2) Luke 23: 45b-48

The temple curtain was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And after he said this he breathed his last.

Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent!" And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

The choir sings Tenebrae Factae Sunt (Music by F.J. Haydn)

Tenebrae factae sunt dum crucifixissent Jesum Judei: et circa horam nonam exclamavit Jesus voce magna: Deus meus, ut quid me dereliquisti. Et inclinato capite, emisit spiritum. Exclamans Jesus voce magna ait: Pater in manus tuas commendo spiritum meum. Et inclinato capite, emisit spiritum.

(Darkness fell when Jesus of Judaea was crucified: and around the ninth hour, Jesus cried with a loud voice "My God, why have you forsaken me?" And with inclined head his spirit was leaving him. Jesus cried again with a loud voice "Father into your hands I commend my spirit". And with inclined head, he gave up his spirit.)

Please stand to sing the hymn:

**THRONED upon the awesome Tree,
King of grief, I watch with thee.
Darkness veils thine anguished face:
None its lines of woe can trace:
None can tell what pangs unknown
Hold thee silent and alone.**

**Silent through those three dread hours,
Wrestling with the evil powers,
Left alone with human sin,
Gloom around thee and within,
Till th'appointed time is nigh,
Till the Lamb of God may die.**

**Hark, that cry that peals aloud
Upward through the whelming cloud!
Thou, the Father's only Son,
Thou, his own anointed One,**

**Thou dost ask him- can it be?-
'Why hast thou forsaken me?'**

**Lord, should fear and anguish roll
Darkly o'er my sinful soul,
Thou, who once wast thus bereft
That thine own might ne'er be left.
Teach me by that bitter cry
In the gloom to know thee nigh.**

Words by John Ellerton, 1826-93; Music by Richard Redhead 1820-1901

Reading: The Reproaches

My people, What have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you out of Egypt; but you led your Saviour to the Cross. For forty years I led you safely through the desert, I fed you with manna from heaven, and brought you to the land of plenty; But you led your Saviour to the Cross.

O, My people! What have I done to you that you should testify against me?

Holy God. Holy God. Holy Mighty One. Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us.

*The choir sings O Vos Omnes (Music by Pablo Casals 1876-1973.
Words: Lamentations 1:12)*

O vos omnes, qui transitis per viam, attendite et videte: si est dolor sicut meus.

(O all who pass by, look around and see: is there any suffering like mine?)

Reading: Hebrews 10: 16-25

“This is the covenant that I will establish with them after those days, says the Lord. I will put my laws on their hearts and I will inscribe them on their minds,” then he says, “Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no longer.” Now where there is forgiveness of these,

there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the fresh and living way that he inaugurated for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in the assurance that faith brings, because we have had our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water. And let us hold unwaveringly to the hope that we confess, for the one who made the promise is trustworthy. And let us take thought of how to spur one another on to love and good works, not abandoning our own meetings, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and even more so because you see the day drawing near.

Please stand to sing the hymn:

**O dearest Lord, thy sacred head
with thorns was pierced for me;**

H.E. Hardy (1869-1946)

Music by Vincent Novello 1781-1861

Prayer:

Grant O Lord, that as we are baptised into the death of your blessed Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, so by continually putting to death our evil desires we may be buried with Him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for His merits who died, was buried, and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The choir sings Solus ad Victimam (Music by Kenneth Leighton 1929-88)

Alone to sacrifice thou goest, Lord,
giving thyself to Death whom thou hast slain.
For us thy wretched folk is any word?
Who know that for our sins this is thy pain?
For they are ours, O Lord, our deeds, our deeds.

Why must thou suffer torture for our sin?
Let our hearts suffer in thy Passion, Lord,
that very suffering may thy mercy win.

This is the night of tears, the three days' space,
sorrow abiding of the eventide,
Until the day break with the risen Christ,
and hearts that sorrowed shall be satisfied.

So may our hearts share in thine anguish, Lord,
that they may sharers of thy glory be;
Heavy with weeping may the three days pass,
to win the laughter of thine Easter Day.

Peter Abelard (1079-1142), trans.Helen Waddell

Silence

Please stand to sing

**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 an offering far too small;**

**Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!**

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

Music adapted by Edward Miller (1735-1807)

*We hope you have enjoyed the service.
Please join us for tea/coffee in the Gallery Room.*