

# Good Friday 2/4/2021

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## Prelude

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Music: *Lord Listen to your children praying* ATG575

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*God, listen to Your children praying,  
God, send Your spirit in this place;  
God, listen to Your children praying,  
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

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Verse: "...take this cup away from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." Mark 14:36

## Gathering

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### Call to Worship – Isaiah 53:1-3, 7-9

Ian

Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah describing the suffering servant of God.

Isaiah 53:1-3, 7-9

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...

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.

Come let us worship the one who meets us in the heart of suffering.

## Song – Lamb of God

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1. *O Christ, Lamb of God,  
sharing our weakness, our weakness,  
have mercy, have mercy*
  2. *O Christ, Lamb of God,  
bearing our failings, our failings,  
have mercy, have mercy.*
  3. *O Christ, Lamb of God,  
sharing our story, our story,  
oh Grant us, grant us your peace.  
Oh grant us, grant us your peace.*
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SONG: Lamb of God, by Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan, © 2004 this here music, [www.thisheremusic.com](http://www.thisheremusic.com)  
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### Acknowledgement of Country

Amelia

Today as we gather to worship, we acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the first inhabitants of this place from time beyond our remembering.

***They have never ceded sovereignty.***

We acknowledge that through this land, God nurtured and sustained the first peoples of this country, the aboriginal and Islander peoples.

***We honour them for their custodianship of the land on which we gather today.***

We acknowledge that the First Peoples had already encountered the Creator God before the arrival of the colonisers;

***the Spirit was already in the land, revealing God to the people through law, custom and ceremony.***

We acknowledge that the same love and grace that was finally and fully revealed in Jesus Christ sustained the first peoples and gave them particular insights into God's ways:

***and so we rejoice in the reconciling purposes of God and commit ourselves to work for justice, reconciliation, and care of the earth.***

### Introduction

Ian

Welcome to this solemn remembrance of Christ's passion and dying, we will enter into that together under the rainbow arch of God's love. You will be invited to come forward and pray by the cross. Let's prepare ourselves now to enter into Christ's passion, let's prepare ourselves for prayer.

### Prayer

Amelia

God who gives us being,  
We stand before the sign of your commitment to us,  
A wonderful arc of light and colour  
Hanging aloft in the air that fills our lungs  
and in mist that falls damply on our faces

As the we watch the chest of your son rising and falling to the last,  
May we continue to find hope in your promise,  
giving breath to those who are struggling for air  
and wetting the the lips of those who thirst for justice.

As his eyelids become heavy and close into darkness,  
May our eyes be opened to the many colours of your creation.

As his heartbeat slows and the warmth leaves his body,  
May we feel the eternal rhythm of life pulsing among us and through all the earth.

As his hands are bound and his movement stills,  
May we release ourselves from the constraints that stop us from reaching out to others.

As we watch and wait, we remember that we are your people.

**Amen**

## Song of Lament

LAMENT for a people with a dulled heart (S. Whelan 2013)

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*Why do we listen and fail to hear?  
Why do we see and not perceive?  
We have turned away and our heart has grown dull  
Heal us, help us to grieve  
Heal us, help us to grieve*

*Ooh... Ooh... Oh... Oh...  
Ooh... Ooh... Oh... Oh...*

*Why do we listen and fail to hear?  
Why do we see and not perceive?  
We have turned away and our heart has grown dull  
Heal us, help us believe  
Heal us, help us believe*

*Ooh... Ooh... Oh... Oh...  
Ooh... Ooh... Oh... Oh...*

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SONG: [Lament](#), by Shawn Whelan, 2013, written for the BUC Boundless Plains series, used with permission.

## Telling the Story

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*During the reading of Mark's Passion Story, the rainbow cloths are taken down and "buried" under the communion table – one with each section of the story. Once the cross is bare the story of the death of Jesus is read. Then when the story of the burial is read black cloths are draped over the table. Between each section of the story a verse of "Were you there when they crucified my Lord" is sung.*

SONG: *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?* TIS345 Verses as follows, one after each section.

## Mark 14:32-36 – Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

Matilda McClintock: They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ...

**Movement:** Lift cloth over table. Hold and kneel.

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*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

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SONG: [Were you there?](#), based on an African-American spiritual, from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins Religious, PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Mark 14:43-50 – The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Nick Dubrow: Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." All of them deserted him and fled.

**Movement:** Wrap Amelia in cloth. Drop on final words.

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*Were you there when a kiss betrayed my Lord?*

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## Mark 14:53-65 – Jesus before the Council

Sophia Twigg – via pre-recording in Dropbox/liturgy/Good Friday: They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ... Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated 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 his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

**Movement:** Pull cloth tight over table. Lay on table.

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*Were you there when they taunted and condemned?*

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### **Mark 14:66-72 – Peter Denies Jesus**

Ralph Eduardo: While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

**Movement:** Shake cloth 3 times with Peter's denials. Drop on "he broke down and wept".

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*Were you there when his friend broke down and wept?*

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### **Mark 15:1-15 – Jesus before Pilate**

Kirsten Parris – via video recording in Dropbox/liturgy/Good Friday: As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

**Movement:** Amelia tie Tonia's arms then hold.

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*Were you there when they shouted for his death?*

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### **Mark 15:16-24 – The Crucifixion of Jesus**

Samuel Hall: Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

**Movement:** Cloth across shoulders. Take to floor.

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*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

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### **Mark 15:33-41 – The Death of Jesus**

Bella Taranto: When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

**Movement:** stand looking at cross.

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*Were you there when my Lord breathed out his last?*

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### **Mark 15:42-47 – The Burial of Jesus**

Dave Hall: When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

**Movement:** Gather up cloths and put under table during reading then move to the black cloths and bring in during song.

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*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

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**Movement:** Black cloths brought down isles and draped over the table to the cross.

# The Response

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## Prayers of the People

Jim

Benevolent God,

Creator of depth, dance and song, we pray for the broken world.

We pray for the world on Good Friday: may leaders remember the garden, know the truth, heal the world.

In your mercy, hear our prayers:

**We mourn, We watch, we hope. We wait, quietly.**

We pray for the church on Good Friday. May the Uniting Church give hope to the communities it serves and life to the goals it sets. May the diverse faith-communities of Moreland mourn, then celebrate, this Easter. He is the vine. We are the branches.

In your mercy, hear our prayers:

**We mourn, We watch, we hope. We wait, quietly.**

We pray for those in need on Good Friday. May those without families find loving families. May those without community find caring community. May we draw closer to each other. May we share suffering, share stories. May those in need find hope, healing.

In your mercy, hear our prayers:

**We mourn, We watch, we hope. We wait, quietly.**

In the name of Christ the living tree, Lord of the dance, captured; nailed to the cross yet offering us love; broken, yet, unbreakable.

Praise

Amen

***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.***

## Veneration of the Cross\*

*Congregation comes forward to pray at the cross. They take a sprig of rosemary from baskets on the table*

I invite you now, if you are able and would like to, to come forward and pray at the cross of Christ, touching it with veneration. Bring your story into his story. On your return, take a sprig of rosemary from the baskets here to remember the love of Christ in whom God fully embraced human suffering and dying. Rosemary has been traditionally associated with love, remembrance and peace. At the end of the service, we will take those sprigs outside and place them in preparation for Easter morning.

SONG: *Jesus remember me* TIS730

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*Jesus remember me, when you come into your kingdom.*

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SONG: Jesus, remember me, by permission Ateliers et Presses de Taize Ltd., from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*

## Closing Prayer

Ian

As the fragrance of Rosemary fills this room, so may the peace of God hold us in our distress.

God of the splintered cross and stony tomb,  
hold us now and through the days to come.  
Grant us the peace  
that passes all human understanding,  
and keep us in your love  
as we wait in the darkness  
for the dawning of the new day.

## Sending Song

My song is love unknown (TIS341 verses 1, 2, 6 & 7)

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*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 blest throne  
Salvation to bestow;  
But all 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.*

*In life, no house, no home  
My Lord on earth might have;  
In death no friendly tomb  
But what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was His home;  
But mine the tomb wherein He lay.*

*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.*

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SONG: My song is love unknown, by Samuel Crossman,  
from Together in Song, Harper Collins *Religious*. PUBLIC DOMAIN

## Sending

Ian

*Congregation moves to front steps as Dan plays a Bagpipe lament. They place their rosemary sprigs in the fire bowl in preparation for Easter morning at dawn.*

I invite you to move outside now. As Dan plays a lament for us, take your rosemary sprig, remembering love amongst the struggles of life, and place it in the fire bowl by the steps. We will light a fire there at dawn on Easter day. But first we wait, trusting that God is with us in the dark places of life. Once we have finished you are welcome to return into the church to pray, or to stay outside and share some time with your fellow mourners, or you may be ready to return home to prayerfully wait through the rest of today and tomorrow for the conclusion of this service at dawn here on Sunday at 6:30am and/or at our Easter Holy Communion service at 9:30.

Go in peace. As Christ has loved you, love one another.

## Postlude

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### Thankyous

Planning Team:  
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Amelia Ware

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Ralph Eduardo  
Dave Hall

Samuel Hall  
Matilda McClintock  
Kirsten Parris  
Bella Taranto  
Karen & Sophia Twigg

Prayers of the People:  
Jim Kilpatrick

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Verse: "They rolled a stone against the door of the tomb." Mark 15:46