

Opening verse:

Then they led him away to crucify him. Matthew 27:31

Gathering

As people arrive, they are invited to engage and pray (including lighting taper candles?) with the symbols on plinths. Simple signs describe each one with a quote.

- The triumphal entry into Jerusalem - “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”
- The Anointing - “what she has done will be told in remembrance of her”
- The Last supper - “I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”
- The Garden of Gethsemane - “pray that you may not come into the time of trial”
- Peter’s denial - Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.
- On Trial before Pilate - Pilate took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood; see to it yourselves.”

Musicians quietly play taize chant TIS730 *Jesus remember me*

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

Call to Worship

Ian

Isaiah 53:1-5 – The Suffering Servant

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.

Gathering Song – *When I survey, TIS342*

- 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 mingled 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 a present far too small:
love so amazing so divine
demands my soul, my life, my all.*
-

SONG: [When I survey the wondrous cross](#), by Isaac Watts,
from [Together in Song](#), Harper Collins *Religious*, PUBLIC DOMAIN

Acknowledgement of Country

Jenne

Wominjeka

Today as we gather to worship, we acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung 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.***

Prayer

Ian

During which each of the Lenten symbols are moved from the plinths in the gathering space down to the front - each providing the focus for a prayer.

With Ukrainian Orthodox Kyrie eleison TIS736

Remember the steps along the path which have brought us here today – 6 Sundays, 6 stories.

Image 1: branches from Palm Sunday

Jesus rides a donkey and a colt into Jerusalem. The crowds that go ahead of him and that follow are shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Jesus, ...

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Image 2: Anointing oil

An unnamed woman anoints Jesus for his burial. Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

Jesus, our forgetting....

Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison

Image 3: cup and plate

Jesus eats the Passover with his disciples saying to them, "I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

Jesus,. ...

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Image 4: olive branches

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. In his agony he says, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want."

Jesus,....

Christe eleison, Christe eleison, Christe eleison

Image 5: feathers

Peter follows Jesus after he is arrested. In the courtyard of the High Priest he denies knowing Jesus. Then he remembers what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he goes out and weeps bitterly.

Jesus, ...

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison

Image 6: water bowl

On trial before Pilate, Jesus keeps silence before his accusers, not responding to a single charge. Pilate is amazed and washes his hands of him.

Jesus,. ...

Gospel – Matthew 27:27-66

with The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross by Janet Morley

and TIS345 Were you there

and movement to place black fabric over the symbols and purple pathway.

Reading – Matthew 27:27-31 – The Soldiers Mock Jesus

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Movement

Good Friday Reproaches by Janet Morley, *All desires known* p 61

Hear the reproach of the cross.

O my people, what have I done to you?

how have I offended you?

Answer me.

I brooded over the abyss,
with my words I called for creation:
but you have brooded on destruction,
and manufactured the means of chaos.

I breathed life into your bodies,
and carried you tenderly in my arms:
but you have armed yourselves for war,
breathing out threats of violence.

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? ...

Reading – Matthew 27:32-44 – The Crucifixion of Jesus

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to, for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The rebels who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

Movement

Good Friday Reproaches by Janet Morley, *All desires known* p 61

Hear the reproach of the cross.

O my people, what have I done to you?
how have I offended you?
Answer me.

I made the desert blossom before you,
I fed you with an open hand:
But you have grasped the children's food,
and laid waste fertile lands.

I abandoned my power like a garment,
choosing your unprotected flesh:
but you have robed yourselves in privilege,
and chosen to despise the abandoned.

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

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

Reading – Matthew 27:45-56 – The Death of Jesus

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema 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." At once 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 others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Pause

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!",

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Movement

Good Friday Reproaches by Janet Morley, *All desires known* p 61

Hear the reproach of the cross.

O my people, what have I done to you?
how have I offended you?
Answer me.

I would have gathered you to me as a lover,
and shown you the ways of peace:
but you have desired security,
and you would not surrender your self.

I have torn the veil of my glory,
transfiguring the earth:
but you have disfigured my beauty,
and turned away your face.

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? ...

Reading – Matthew 27:57-66 – The Burial of Jesus and The Guard at the Tomb

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who also was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise, his disciples may go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can.", So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Movement

Good Friday Reproaches by Janet Morley, *All desires known* p 61

Hear the reproach of the cross.

O my people, what have I done to you?
how have I offended you?
Answer me.

I have laboured to deliver you,
as a woman delights to give life:
but you have delighted in bloodshed,
and laboured to bereave the world.

I have followed you with the power of my spirit,
to seek truth and heal the oppressed:
but you have been following a lie,
and returned to your own comfort.

You have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

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

Prayers of the People

Jim

Veneration of the Cross

As the congregation comes forward to pray at the cross, musicians play:

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

*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.*

Prayer

Amelia

Written by Amelia for Good Friday 2021 alt

God who gives us being,
we breathe, we watch, we wait.
We lift our heads in the air that fills our lungs
to feel the mist that falls damply on our faces.

As the we see 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 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

Sending Song – Our God who weeps

*Ch See our God with the tear-streaked face
With words that heal
And arms that embrace
See him now with his nail-scarred hands
Your Kingdom come, Lord, the Promised Land*

*1 When people plead in far-off lands
And no-one heeds their out-stretched hands
Yet in the poor we shall find you
Help us work in the world for you
Fill us now with your love anew*

*2 They lock up the weak behind barbed-wire fence
And too few speak in their defence
Yet in the prisoner we find you
Help us work in the world with you
Fill us now with your love anew*

*3 When death has taken those held dear
When faith is shaken, despair draws near
May those who mourn find strength in you
Let us weep for the world with you
Fill us now with your love anew*

SONG: [Our God who weeps](#), by Kate Scull, © 2006, from [Tune In](#), Brunswick UC. Reproduced with permission

Sending

Ian

This service is not over, no benediction now, it couldn't end here.

It continues in our prayers for the rest of today and tomorrow, and then comes to fulfillment in the great celebration here on Easter morning at dawn around a fire at 6:15 and then our 9:30 am Holy Communion service.

I'll close with a prayer. Let's hold silence in this space today waiting until we are outside or in the hall to greet one another and converse. There will be hot cross buns in the hall through the doors here. Stay and pray for as long as you wish and leave when you are ready.

Let us pray.

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.
In the name of the crucified Christ.
Amen

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

Stay with me (Songs and Prayers from Taize 8)

*Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.*

Thank yous

Thank you for joining us, and thank you to...

Planning Team:

Saide Cameron
Ian Ferguson
Cath James
Jim Kilpatrick
Matilda McClintock
Amelia Ware

Prayers of the People:

Jim Kilpatrick

Musicians:

Alistair Hunter
(co-ordinator)
Jane Allardice
Andrew Dickinson
Colin Hunter
Kate Scull
Natalie Sims

Images:

Ian Ferguson

Postlude Song: Stay with me, Taize © Ateliers et

Presses de Taize

Musicians: James Balsillie,
Alistair Hunter,
Courtney Rodhe

Editing / Production:

Michael Cameron
Ray Cameron
Saide Cameron
James Clough
Alistair Hunter
Shawn Whelan

Closing verse:

So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone. Matthew 27:66