

HOME WORSHIP FOR 2 APRIL 2021, GOOD FRIDAY

OPENING PRAYER

The suffering servant, despised and rejected. We remember Jesus, despised by those for whom he was the voice of conscience, rejected even by his friends.

The suffering servant, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. We remember Jesus, who empathised with those the world treated harshly and who gave hope to the bereaved.

The suffering servant, wounded for our transgressions. We remember Jesus, who paid the price for the self-interest and will for control that is mirrored in our nature.

The suffering servant, led like a lamb to the slaughter. We remember Jesus, for whom a refusal to compromise or to submit to corrupt leaders led inevitably to a cross and death. We fall silent in the face of his sacrifice.

(Allow a time of quiet reflection.)

The shadow of the cross falls on us as we worship; we lift our eyes to see Jesus, condemned and powerful.

The shadow of the cross falls on us as we worship; humiliation and mocking by the soldiers has been the lot of Jesus.

The shadow of the cross falls on us as we worship; on the cross is written, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." What irony! Jesus is the one to whom we give our loyalty.

The shadow of the cross falls on us as we worship; Jesus is supported at this agonising time by his mother and by two other women, but only one disciple.

The shadow of the cross falls on us as we worship; we fall silent in the face of his sacrifice.

(Allow a time of quiet reflection.)

CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Nailed to the cross, by those who put self-interest above principles. People like us!

Put among thieves, by those who were afraid of risking change. People like us!
Humiliated in public, by those whose eyes were closed to the needs of the poor. People like us!

Shunned at this crucial moment, by those who would not see the significance of his sacrifice. People like us!

(Allow a time of quiet reflection)

The cross, symbol of sacrifice: evil persons confronted, self-seeking groups challenged, loving community tested, comfortable traditions questioned. Sacrifice calls for sacrifice! As you grace us with the commitment of your Sacrificed One, O God, the right choices will be made, peace will be ours, and we will go forward renewed and unafraid. Amen.

MEMORY VERSE – try to memorise this verse from today's readings.

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.

(Isaiah 53: 12b)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord Jesus Christ, broken on the cross, tortured there in body, mind and soul, you know what it means to suffer. So now we pray today for the broken people of our world. All those who have experienced something of your pain.

Reach out in love, and make them whole.

We pray for the broken in body – those injured in accidents, those maimed in war, those disabled by disease.

Reach out in love, and make them whole.

We pray for the broken in mind – those tormented by fears, those wrestling with depression, those who have suffered a mental breakdown.

Reach out in love, and make them whole.

We pray for the broken in spirit – those whose dreams have been destroyed, those whose love has been betrayed, those whose faith has been crushed.

Reach out in love, and make them whole.

Lord Jesus Christ, you came to make us all whole, to mend broken lives, to restore people.

Reach out in love, and make them whole, for in your name we ask it. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Christ has been crucified; the terrible work has been done.

Compassion has been ended; the powerless have been abandoned; the leaders are smiling smugly; the religious ones are sighing with relief; the followers are scattered.

But the sun is rising behind the cross-hill. And quietly, confidently, thankfully, we await the resurrection. Amen.