

Good Friday Meditation

12 noon, 2nd April 2021 CHORAL MEDITATION ON THE CROSS

Gathering

This service is being live streamed only, and there is no attendance in church in person in the congregation. Following government guidance, the choir for this service is the minimum required for the music being offered in worship.

Logging on to the Live Stream

1. The live stream will start at about 11.55am in preparation for the service.
2. Go to our website www.stmaryletower.org.uk and find the “**LIVE Streamed Services**” title and click to go to our **Facebook Live** page.
3. Click on the service video. When the video opens you will need to click on the loudspeaker icon to unmute it and hear the sound.

THEME OF THE MEDITATION

The Divine Glory of the Cross

Music before the Service

Johannes Brahms

Organist: William Baldry

*O Welt, ich muss dich lassen,
ich fahr dahin mein Strassen
ins ewig Vaterland.
Mein' Geist will ich aufgeben,
dazu mein' Leib und Leben
legen in Gottes gnädig Hand.*

O World, I must leave you,
I travel from here along my way
to the everlasting fatherland.
I will give up my spirit
so that my body and life
lie in God's merciful hand

Introit (Borrett)

We think that Paradise and Calvary,
Christ's Cross and Adam's Tree,
stood in one place;

Look Lord, and find both Adams met in me;
As the first Adam's sweat surrounds my face,
May the last Adam's blood my soul embrace.
Amen.

Welcome and Introduction

Revd Canon Charles Jenkin, Vicar

Hymn

Please join in at home with the hymns if you wish.

**There is a green hill far away
outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified
who died to save us all.**

**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.**

**He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven
Saved by his precious blood.**

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

**O dearly, dearly has he loved
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.**

The Glory of Divine Service

Reading: Mark 10.32-45

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, “See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again.”

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am

baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
who at the Last Supper washed the feet of the apostles,
teaching us by your example the grace of humility;
cleanse us, we pray, from all stain of sin and self-serving,
and make us ready to serve one another,
in your name and for your sake. **Amen.**

Motet (Aniero)

Sung by the choir.

*Christus factus est pro nobis obediens
usque ad mortem, mortem autem crucis.
Propter quod et Deus exaltavit illum
et dedit illi nomen,
quod est super omne nomen.*

Christ became obedient for us unto death,
even to death on the cross.
Therefore God exalted Him
and gave Him a name
which is above all names.

The Glory of Divine Love

Reading: John 15.9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you

whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

Prayer

Soul of Christ, sanctify me,
body of Christ, save me,
blood of Christ, inebriate me,
water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me: hide me within your wounds
and never let me be separated from you.
From the wicked enemy defend me,
in the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to you, so that with your saints
I may praise you for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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 blest 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.**

The glorious Victory of the Cross

Reading: John 12.20-32

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say, 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

Prayer

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
for you submitted to the discipline
of a son's obedience,
and perfectly revealed in your death
the loving nature of the Father.
We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
for as champion of humankind and for our sake
you entered the battle against evil,
and won the complete victory over its power.
We praise you, Lord Jesus Christ, Servant of God,
for you accepted the suffering of those
who seek to be at one with those they serve,
and by your sacrifice made us one with God.
Thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Motet (MacDonald)

Sung by the choir.

Crux fidelis (Faithful cross).

Eclipse – at midnight –
It was dark before sunset at Easter -
Blindness on the dawn -
Faint star of Bethlehem gone down!

His harmlesse hands unto the Crosse they nailde

betweene two thieues unpitied unbewailde
with sharpest pangs and terrors they appailde

Crux fidelis (Faithful cross).

To know just how he suffered - would be dear
To know if any Human eyes were near
To whom he could entrust his wavering gaze
Until it settle broad – on Paradise.

Crux fidelis (Faithful cross)

"Remember me, remember me," implored the thief!
Before sunset – at Easter – a Guest in Paradise.

The Glory of the Kingdom of God

Reading: Luke 23.32-43

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
set your passion, cross, and death
between your judgement and us,
now and at the hour of our death.
Give mercy and grace to the living,
rest to the faithful departed,
to your holy Church peace and concord,
and to us sinners eternal life and glory;
for you are alive and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn

O sacred Head, surrounded
By crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding Head, so wounded,
So shamed and put to scorn!
Death's pallid hue comes o'er thee,
The glow of life decays,
Yet angel hosts adore you
And tremble as they gaze.

Thy comeliness and vigour
Is withered up and gone
And in thy wasted figure,
I see death drawing on.
O agony and dying!
O love to sinners free!
Jesus, all grace supplying,
O turn your face on me.

In this, your bitter passion,
Good Shepherd, think of me
With your most sweet compassion,
Unworthy though I be:
Beneath your cross abiding
For ever would I rest,
In your dear love confiding,
And with your presence blest.

Prayers

Almighty Father,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ
was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
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.**

**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.**

Almighty God,
as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son,
help us to see and know your love for us,
so that in humility, love and joy
we may place at his feet

all that we have and all that we are;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Motet (Tallis)

Sung by the choir

*Salvator mundi, salva nos,
qui per crucem et sanguinem redemisti nos.
Auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur, Deus noster.*

Saviour of the world, save us, thou
who by thy cross and blood hast redeemed us.
Come to our rescue, we beseech thee, our God.

Organ (Brahms)

*Herzlich thut mich verlangen
nach einem selgen End;
weil ich hie bin umfangen
mit Trübsal und Elend.
Ich hab Lust abzuschneiden
von dieser argen Welt;
sehn mich noch ewgen Freuden:
o Jesu, komm nur bald.*

My heart is filled with longing
To pass away in peace;
For woes are round me thronging,
And trials will not cease.
O fain would I be hasting
From thee, dark world of gloom,
To gladness everlasting;
O Jesus, quickly come!

*The livestream ends after voluntary.
Thank you for joining us for this Good Friday service.*

After the Service

*If you wish to speak to the vicar or another member of
staff, it is best to do this currently by phone or email:*

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