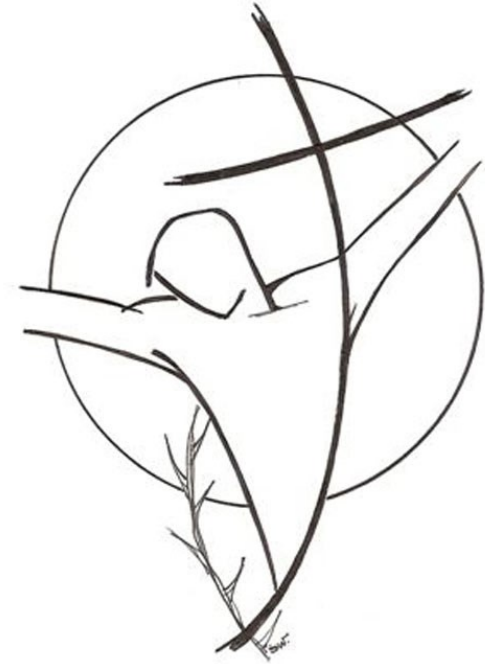


Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

*CHRIST CHURCH
SHOOTERS HILL*



The Liturgy of Good Friday

The Gathering

The Collect

All stand and the president says the Collect

Eternal God, in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of our sin and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Silence is kept.

New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds’, he also adds, ‘I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.’ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

in the power of the Cross,
let his true kingship be established.

As Jesus cared for his mother and his friend
even in the hour of death,
let nothing diminish our concern for one another ...

As he was crucified near to a city,
may his saving love come into our dwellings.
Look with compassion on all
who are bruised and smitten by suffering ...
In the sufferings of Christ,
let them find healing.

We pray for all whose earthly lives are finished ...
We pray that the death which destroyed death shall be their life.

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers
through the mercy of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Standing at the foot of the cross,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Surely the whole point of God is that he is eternal. How crazy, then, to offer your whole life to a hanged God?

Yet this moment of unspeakable and abandoned death is the most intense moment of divine revelation. The Christian God reveals his power through powerlessness. Because from the cross we see that there can be no greater strength than the strength of selfless love.

This act of utter, unconditional self-giving subverts and overturns all the twisted values of the world. As Jesus dies, the powerful are shown to be powerless. The dealers of injustice, the oppressors and the polluters are placed under judgement. The captives are set free. Because as we gaze upon the hanged God, we see a world transformed by love. The selfishness of sin is overcome by the selflessness of love.

And our response? To try and love as Jesus loved. To offer our lives as a gift to the poor as Jesus offered his life to us who have nothing. If the cross is our only hope, then it will also be our lifestyle.

Quiet music is played (Stainer's Crucifixion? Allegri's Miserere?)

The Prayers of Intercession

Give to your Church grace to enter deeply
into the sad mystery of this day ...
As we stand before the Cross of Jesus Christ,
make us more worthy to take that Cross as the sign of our faith.

Have mercy on a world that goes its way
ignorant or forgetful of Christ's sacrificial love ...

Silence is kept.

Hymn

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

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The Passion Reading

John 18.1–end of 19

During the passion reading there are 4 breaks.

Break 1: Silence;

Break 2: Silence;

Break 3: Silence;

Break 4: Silence

You are invited to kneel during the periods of silence

Silence is kept.

Reflection

by Philip North

They spat upon him

It must be revolting to be spat at, for your face to be covered in someone else's saliva and mucus, to taste it in your own mouth. Yet that is just one part of the appalling abuse that Jesus faces as the soldiers rough him up, ready for the cross.

The abuse is not just physical. It's mental. It's emotional. They pretend to worship him; they mock the kingly title that some had used of him; they press the thorns of a fake crown through his skin. It's horrible, humiliating abuse. And there is nothing Jesus can do. There is no point in fighting back or objecting. He just has to sit and take it.

As Jesus does so, he puts himself in the place of human suffering. Here he identifies himself with the child bullied in school, with the employee mocked in the workplace and with the victim of torture. Here he is alongside the victim of coercive control, the abused, the raped and the enslaved. Here he abides with the fearful and the anxious and those for whom the future is a thing of terror. There are no quick fixes, no simplistic, instant solutions. He is just there with those who suffer, and remains there, lifting their pain onto his shoulders.

In Jesus, God locates himself with the victimized and the suffering. So when you suffer, Jesus is there with you in the midst of it

The Proclamation of the Cross

Hymn:

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?

His dying crimson like a robe,
spreads o'er his body on the tree;
then am I dead to all the globe,
and all the globe is dead to me.

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.

A wooden cross may be brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people.

Reflection A

by Philip North

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last
What kind of a God is it who goes and gets himself killed?
No wonder St Paul accepted that the cross seemed like
foolishness to others. No wonder that, from the very first,
Christians have been mocked and abused for such a bizarre belief.