

## Worship and Prayer Resource for Good Friday

*Feel free to engage with this service at whatever time you choose, but please do light a candle at 9.30am if you can.*

*Before you sit down, prepare your space. You'll need a candle to light and your Bible. Then find two short sticks and some string/wool, a piece of paper which you can tear in half, a small stone, and a small bowl or cup of water. Now find a quiet place to sit comfortably as we join together in worship at home.*

9.30am

*Light candle and place it in a safe place*

As you light it, think of the light of Christ bringing peace into the world and give thanks.

Breathe in slowly. Breathe out slowly. Say slowly: "Be still and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

Take your time over this series of readings and reflections. Be open to what God might be saying in this moment. Set this time aside as a sacred time, praying that the Holy Spirit might bring you refreshment and renewal.

Read: [Matthew 26:57, 59-60, 63-67](#)

Respond

Amid false accusations, scorn and ridicule, Jesus remained silent... take a moment to let Jesus' response sink in...

Sometimes, silence is prudent. At other times, we need to stand up and tell the truth. When do you choose to speak up, and when do you choose to remain silent? What motivates your choice?

Listen

Throughout this service there will be the words to a well-known Easter hymn, "My Song Is Love Unknown". You might like to sing along or say the words as they appear as a response to the readings. Here is a link to a short version of the hymn from Songs of Praise:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lv7OZSoA22w>

*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*

*Samuel Crossman – Public Domain*



Read: [Matthew 27:1-2, 15-26](#)

### Respond

Pilate could find no wrong, but the crowd, spurred on by the religious leaders, was insistent. Pilate washed his hands of the matter and handed Jesus back to them.

*I wonder what we would have done?*

### Confess

As we think about what we would have done and then what we have done, read **Psalm 51:1-3; 6-7; 10-12** aloud as a Prayer of Confession.

*What are the things which separate you from God's love?*

Spend some time pondering these things, then confess them to God...

Hear God's words of grace to you:

**You are Clean, You are Loved, You are Forgiven.**

*Dip your finger in the water and make the sign of a cross on your forehead or your arm and be assured of God's forgiveness.*

*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*

*Samuel Crossman – Public Domain*

Read: [Matthew 27: 27-31](#)

*Jeering*

*Sarcasm*

*Bullying*

*Violence*

*Oppression*

*Mockery*

*Humiliation*

*Ridicule*

### Pray

- for those who feel misunderstood
- for those who find themselves victims of spite, anger, or misuse of power
- for Christians all around the world who are mocked or persecuted because of their faith

Read: [Matthew 27:32-38](#)



## Respond

Crucifixion was a painful and torturous method of execution – it's where we get the English word "excruciating." Victims were stripped to a loincloth, and left exposed, arms out wide: vulnerable to the elements, and to the responses of onlookers. It was designed not only to kill, but to torture, to humiliate, and to shame.

Take your two sticks and bind them together with the string to make a cross. Use this action as a prayer, as you reflect on the following:

Jesus suffered incredible pain and agony and death - he did this for us. Take a moment to ponder what he suffered - not only did Christ suffer FOR us, he also suffers WITH us.

Take a moment to think about what you are struggling with most at the moment and know that Jesus is with you in your struggle.

*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*

*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  
Heaven was His home  
But mine the tomb  
Wherein He lay*

*Samuel Crossman – Public Domain*

## Pray

Read **Psalm 22:1-5** out loud, as a prayer.

Note how the cry of anguish and despair turns to hope and trust. Even in the time of deepest darkness, God is near. Sometimes it is precisely in the middle of our darkest suffering that we most fully experience the strength of God, and the promise of hope. God does not abandon or forsake us, no matter how desperate we may feel.

Continue reading: **Psalm 22: 19; 22-24.**

Give thanks that God does listen to your cries for help, and you are safe in God's loving embrace.

## Read

*God who created us, suffers because of us.  
God who died upon the Cross, suffers for us.  
God who dwells amongst us, suffers with us.  
And in God' suffering, we find hope.  
God, our suffering God, your story brings us salvation.  
Without you the horrors of human suffering would be unbearable.*



*Your story gives life meaning.  
Because of your suffering, a new world has broken into ours.  
Your pain releases us from prison.  
Your agony frees us to live in love, joy and peace in your eternal resurrection world.*

*Christine Sine <http://godspace-msa.com>*

*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*

*Samuel Crossman – Public Domain*

Read: [Matthew 27:45-52, 54](#)

**Extinguish your candle,**  
symbolic of the darkness which spread over all the land.

**Tear your piece of paper in half,**  
symbolic of the curtain being torn in two, destroying the understanding that God was hidden away in the inner sanctum of the temple, behind a veil and accessible only to the high priest.

Imagine the earthquake that accompanied these events, and the symbolism of new life portrayed. Jesus' death already brings the promise of eternal hope, of cosmic significance.

Read: [Matthew 27:57-60, 62-66](#)

Respond

**Lay your pieces of torn paper over your cross.**

**Place the stone over the top.**

**Even if they will be in your way, leave them there until Sunday, waiting...**



*This Prayer and Worship resource is based on a resource prepared by  
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