

## Worship for Fleet URC & Beacon Hill URC

Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021 at 3 p.m.

Good Friday



Led by Karen Smith

Opening music : Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Welcome: We come together on this Good Friday for a time of reflection and prayer.

### Prayer

Loving God, we come before you, in worship, praise, thanksgiving and remembrance.

Today of all days we are reminded just how much we owe you, how great a price you are willing to pay to give us the gift of life.

Open our hearts to the presence of Christ  
**and lead us in his way**

We come, recalling the last hours in the life of Jesus and all it teaches us of Him – His faithfulness to the last, his willingness to take the Way of the cross, his courage in the face of opposition, suffering and death.  
Open our hearts to the presence of Christ

**and lead us in his way**

We come thankful for all He has done and continues to do, celebrating his great love. Open our hearts to the presence of Christ  
**and lead us in his way**

Receive now this time of worship we offer to you,  
And speak through it so that we may grow in faith and be strengthened in your service. Open our hearts to the presence of Christ  
**and lead us in his way**  
for in His name we ask it. Amen

[It is Friday -- An invocation and poem for](#)

[Good Friday](#)

It is Friday

And I stand at the foot of the cross.

Nothing can be said, nothing can be done.

Action is futile

I can hold the other's hands and weep, but I cannot be comforted.

It is Friday

And I stand at the foot of the cross.

The air is heavy still with waiting and longing. Waiting for the inevitable, longing for the impossible.

Can this cup pass from me?

I look around me – all the colours are muted.

Dusty browns and greys – Cold and metallic.

Rolling black clouds cover the brilliant blue of the sky

As my soul is occluded by pain.

All that remains is the red of the blood

Running down the weathered wood of the  
cross.

It is Friday

And I stand at the foot of the cross.

I reach out and touch the raised grain of the  
wood.

It is rough against my fingertips.

The smell of unwashed wool and bodies  
crowds my nose.

I smell fear, pain, death. I taste it at the back  
of my throat.

I hear the laboured breathing from the cross.

Death is near.

It is Friday

And I stand at the foot of the cross.

Remember Him!

Remember Him as the silver cord is severed,  
as the golden bowl is broken.

Remember Him as the pitcher is shattered at  
the spring and the wheel broken at the well.

Remember Him as the dust returns to the  
ground it came from and His spirit returns to  
the God who gave it.

It is Friday

And I stand at the foot of the cross.

**Hymn:** When I survey the wondrous cross

*Sung by the Newcastle Virtual Choir*

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.

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were an offering far too small  
Love so amazing so divine  
Demands my soul my life my all.

**Bible reading**  
*Robert Mitchell*

John 19: 25 -30 *read by*

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **26** When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," **27** and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

**28** Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

**29** A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. **30** When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

## A psalm of desolation

*read by Margaret Armes*

Where prisoners are denied justice,  
Humiliated and shamed by abuse,  
Their torture ignored and their voices  
silenced,  
You, crucified God, are there, bearing the sin  
of the world.

Amongst the people we find repulsive,  
Disfigured with infectious disease,  
And scarred by marks of violence,  
You, crucified God, are there, bearing the sin  
of the world.

In communities and towns under siege,  
Where people are beaten and insulted,  
Where abuse and neglect are unchecked,  
You, crucified God, are there, bearing the sin  
of the world.

Loving God, who has carried us like a father,

Cradled us like a mother,  
Do not abandon your people now.  
Bring healing and justice and the praise of  
your name  
To the places that feel forsaken in your  
beloved world.

© Jan Berry URC Prayer Handbook 2011 *still praying*

## Guided silence

They looked upon the One they had pierced  
**And we too look on the one who died, and  
wonder...**

**We wonder why – why this final insult on  
one already dead.**

(Pause...)

They looked upon the One they had pierced  
and saw blood flowing from His hands – His  
feet – His side

**And we too look upon the one who died,  
and wonder....**

**We wonder that such an offering had to be  
made –**

**The blood of a spotless lamb. Was God so angry with his people?**

(Pause...)

They looked upon the One they had pierced and saw water flowing from the wound in His side

**And we too look upon the one who died, and wonder....**

**We wonder at the greatness of this gift:**

**Water from his side – that washes our sin away-**

**Water from one who died offering us a way to new life**

(Pause...)

They looked upon the One they had pierced and thought that they had won – the Word of God was silenced – the Light of the World was extinguished – the Way was blocked – the Truth questioned – the Life was dead.

**Father, forgive them – they did not know what they were doing.**

**Father, forgive us- for often we do not know what we are doing.**

(Pause....)

They looked upon the One they had pierced and thought that they had judged rightly – the Son of God who challenged their gods was wrong and they had defeated Him.

**But God did not send his son into the world to judge it, to condemn it.**

**God sent his Son, the beloved, into the world to save it –**

**to save us** (Pause....)

They looked upon the One they had pierced and saw death and emptiness

**And we too look upon the one who died, and wonder.....**

**We wonder at so great a love –**

**a love that does not count the cost of loving**

–

**a love that offers its very self so that we**

**might live –  
a love that would have done the same  
had I been the only one that needed it.**

(Pause)

The sacrifice of love stretched out His arms  
on the cross

**and sent forth His Spirit into the  
outstretched arms of the Father**

So great a love                      so great a sacrifice...

Concluding music: Were you there when  
they crucified my Lord?

*Sung and produced by Ray Stanyon, with thanks*

Responses led by Anna Smith

Opening music: [STF 285 - Were You There? part of Singing The Faith: Contributed by Paul Wood & Ian Worsfold | The Worship Cloud](#)

Closing music: Sung & produced by Rev'd Ray Stanyon by permission

Hymn: [Virtual Church Choir - Newcastle Cathedral](#) by permission

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