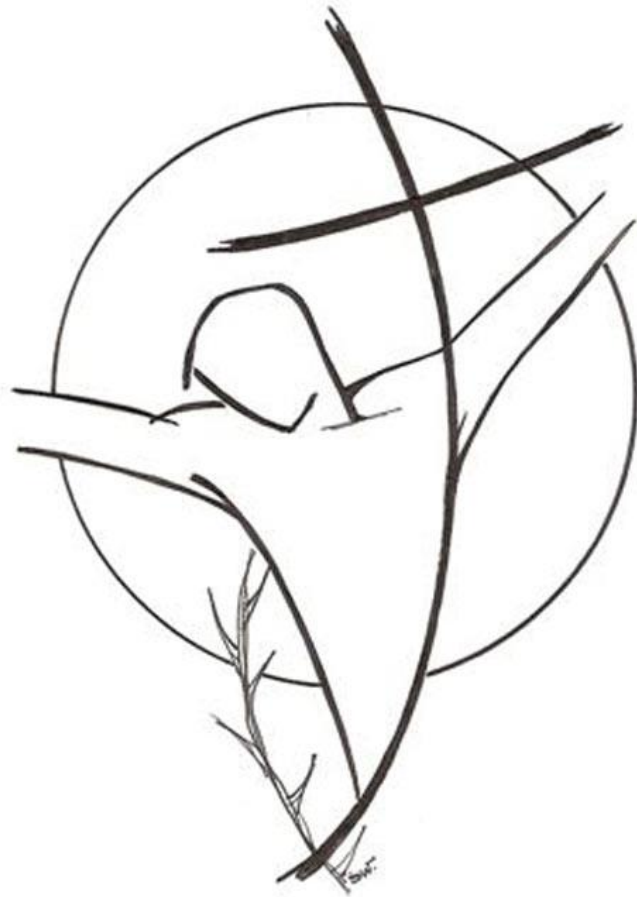


The Parish Church of St. Mary, Shortlands



An Hour at the Cross

Good Friday

10th April 2020

Organ Intro – *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

The service will begin with no introduction.

Collect

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.

Reading John 19: 1-16

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

⁴Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

⁶As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realise I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

¹¹Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹²From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

Prayer

Lord, when you were misunderstood,

you silently forgave;

But we so often respond in anger.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you gave us opportunity to choose Jesus,

But for so long we have chosen the rebellion

that demanded Your death.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence

Anthem – *Praise to thee Lord Jesus (Schütz)*

Reading John 19 16b-22

So, the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Reflection

Silence

Prayer

Lord, you were scourged and wounded;
you deserved no punishment,
but were punished in our place.

Thank You, Jesus.

Thank You, Jesus.

When you were already hurting,
you embraced the cross.

Thank You, Jesus.

Thank You, Jesus.

Taizé Chant – *Ubi Caritas*

Translation:

Where charity and love are, God is there.

Christ's love has gathered us into one.

Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.

Let us fear, and let us love the living God.

And may we love each other with a sincere heart.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

As we are gathered into one body,

Beware, lest we be divided in mind.

Let evil impulses stop, let controversy cease,

And may Christ our God be in our midst.

Where charity and love are, God is there.

And may we with the saints also,

See Thy face in glory, O Christ our God:

The joy that is immense and good,

Unto the world without end. Amen.

Reading John 19: 23-24

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said,

"They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing."

So, this is what the soldiers did.

Reflection

Silence

Prayer

Lord, you were stripped of the robes you wore,
but you were the same - it didn't change you.

Things meant little to you; you never hid behind them.

You showed us the Father's heart,
so open and broken:

May we be open to you, and to each other.

May we be open to you, and to each other.

Lord, for our sake you left the riches of heaven
and became poor.

You came within our reach.

May we be open to you, and to each other.

May we be open to you, and to each other.

You did not hold on to even the little
you had left to call your own.

May we be open to you, and to each other.

May we be open to You, and to each other.

The nakedness of God was exposed before the world,
Lord, O lovely Christ,
may we be open to you, and to each other.

May we be open to You, and to each other.

No robe was left now upon your tired shoulders,
Just a crown of mockery on your head.

You were still a King.

You loved, and won rejection and pain -
but still you loved.

May we be open to you, and to each other.

May we be open to you, and to each other.

Silence

Hymn – *Were You There* *can be sung to the musical accompaniment*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh 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?

Reading John 28-30

²⁸ Later, knowing that all was now completed, 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.

Prayer

Father God, you waited
through the long hours of agony,
when he was robbed even
of the sense of your love, your presence,
when the sin and disease and hatred
and darkness overwhelmed him so greatly.
He was wounded for my transgressions.
He was wounded for my transgressions.

Father, what love is this of His?
What love of this is yours
that his dying love reflects?
Your forgiveness for me,
as we gave upon his sacrificial death,
is as truly an undeserved gift
as the pardon he spoke to the dying thief.
It is mine if I will only receive:
He was wounded for my transgressions.
He was wounded for my transgressions.

Silence

Taizé Chant – *Stay With Me*

Reading John: 38-42

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the leaders. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.

³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Reflection

Silence

Anthem – *God So Loved The World* (John Stainer)

We pray together:

Loving God

**your Son Jesus Christ carried us to the cross,
shed his blood for us
and brought us into a new community with you:
help us to follow in His way,
deny ourselves and take up the cross he gives us,
that the world may learn his way of peace;
may his life and his purposes be alive in us this day,
and may we be alive in him;
and when our hearts are broken,
and when the burdens of this life feel too great to bear,
take us to the cross, and enable us to see there
the great weight that Jesus carried;**

**for here we receive the affirmation of your love,
the assurance of your promise,
and the strength to persevere.
For we ask it in his name.
Amen.**

Toll of Bells

End of Service.

The service finishes in silence.

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