



**BLACKBURN
CATHEDRAL**

A Pilgrimage in Prayer

Good Friday

Friday, 18 April, 2025, 10.00am

Preparation

Before the service, at 9.45am, the Cathedral Youth Choir sings:

Wash Me Thoroughly – Wesley

God so loved the world – Chilcott

My Song is Love Unknown – Molly ijames

At the Font

Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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.



Wait for the Lord whose day is near
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

As we sing, please move to the South Aisle

The Garden of Eden

South Aisle

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: The Creation of Humanity

(Genesis 1:1-5, 26-2:4)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that

has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

Reflection

Canon James

Activity as the Choir Sings

Were you there? – Chilcott

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 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?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there? Were you there? Were you there?

Prayer

Faithful Creator,
whose mercy never fails:

deepen our faithfulness to you
and to your living Word,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.



Wait for the Lord whose day is near
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

As we sing, please move to the North Aisle

The Garden of Temptation

North Aisle

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading - The Fall of Humanity

(Genesis 3:1-13)

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God say, “You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?”’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, “You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.”’ But the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took

of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

Hymn

I Heard the voice of Jesus Say

Tune: Kingsfold

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place,
and He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold I freely give
The living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink, and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul
revived,
and now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light;"
Look unto Me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found
in Him my star, my sun;
and in that Light of life I'll walk
till traveling days are done.

Horatius Bonar (1808 – 1889)

Reflection

Canon James

Activity as the Choir Sings

O Sacred Head Sore Wounded – Mary MacDonald

O sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, Thine only crown.

How pale Thou art with anguish,
with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
which once was bright as morn!

O sacred Head, now wounded;
O sacred Head, now wounded!

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' gain,

mine, mine was the transgression,
but Thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, my Saviour!
Tis I deserve Thy place;
look on me with thy favour,
vouchsafe to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
to thank thee, dearest Friend,
for this, Thy dying sorrow
Thy pity without end?

O sacred Head, now wounded;
O sacred Head, now wounded!

Prayer

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw us to himself,
and cleanse us from all our sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.



Wait for the Lord whose day is near
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

As we sing, please move to the North Transept

The Garden of Gethsemane

North Transept

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading - Jesus Prays and is betrayed

Mark 14:32-50

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said,

'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to them, 'Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled.' All of them deserted him and fled.

Reflection

Canon James

Activity as the Choir Sings

When I survey the wondrous Cross

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 a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748), arr. Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

Silence is kept

Prayer

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus
we see the cost of 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.

Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.



Wait for the Lord whose day is near
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

Ateliers et Presses de Taizé

As we sing, please move to the South Transept

The Garden Tomb

South Transept

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

Reading: Jesus On the Cross

(Mark 15:33-39)

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Hymn

My Song is love unknown Tune: Love Unknown

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 sin 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.

Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him
rise.

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.

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 (c. 1624-1684) alt

Reading: Jesus dies

(Mark 15:39-47)

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where the body was laid.

Final Reflection

Canon James

Music

Crucifixus a 8

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis,
sub Pontio Pilato,
passus et sepultus est.

Crucified for us,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
and was buried.

Antonio Lotti (1667-1740)

Silence is kept

Concluding Prayer

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be with you and be known through you
This day and always
Amen.

Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.

Please stay for refreshments after the service. Hot Cross Buns with tea and coffee will be served in the Temple Gallery