

# Good Friday: An Hour at The Cross

## Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020

### Music

Fernando Ortega: *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*

### Welcome by Sue

Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?

Behold and see if there be any sorrow, like unto my sorrow which is done unto me?

### Meditation

It was on the Friday that they ended it all.

Of course, they didn't do it one by one. They weren't brave enough.

All the stones at the one time or no stones thrown at all.

They did it in crowds. In crowds where you can feel safe and lose yourself and shout things you would never shout on your own,

And do things you would never do if the camera was watching you.

It was a crowd in the church that did it, and a crowd in the civil service that did it, and a crowd in the street that did it.

And he said nothing.

He took the insults, the bruises, the spit on the face, the thongs on the back, the curses in the ears. He took the sight of his friends turning away, running away.

And he said nothing.

He let them do their worst until their worst was done, as on Friday they ended it all.

And would have finished themselves had he not cried, 'Father, forgive them.'

### Prayer

Saviour of the world, what have you done to deserve this?

And what have we done to deserve you?

Strung up between criminals, cursed and spat upon, you wait for death,

And look for us, for us whose sin has crucified you.

To the mystery of undeserved suffering, you bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love.

Forgive us for not knowing what we have done.

Open our eyes to what we are doing now, as through wood and nails, you disempower our depravity and transform us by your grace.

Amen.

### Meditation: *The people on the fringe drawn into the saving passion of Jesus.*

- A young man watching from afar (Mark 14:51)

A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth.

They caught hold of him, but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked.

- A passer-by pressed into service (Mark 15:21)

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross.

It was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

- A Soldier on duty (Mark 15:31)

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.'

- A wealthy benefactor (Mark 15:42-46)

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 hewed out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

- The Women who followed (Mark 15:40-41, 47)

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalen, and Mary the mother of James the younger and Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provide for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. Mary Magdalen and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body of Jesus was laid.

## **Music**

Resound Worship: *Let Us Kneel*

## **Messengers**

It suddenly strikes me with overwhelming force.

It was women who were first to spread the message of Easter – the unheard of!

It was women who rushed to the disciples, who, breathless and bewildered, passed on the greatest message of all: he is alive!

Think if women had kept silence in the churches.

## **Reading**

He was afflicted; he submitted to being struck down and did not open his mouth.

He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, like a ewe that is dumb before her shearers.

Without protection, without justice, he was taken away and who gave a thought to his fate?

He was cut off from the world of the living, put to death for the people's sin.

He was given a grave with the wicked, a burial place among the rubbish of humanity, though he had done nothing wrong, and said nothing which was untrue.

## **Prayers**

Gracious and eternal God, 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, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,

And entered not into glory before he was crucified.

Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,

May find it to be the way of life and peace. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God,

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,

Be with you now and always.

Amen.

## **Music**

Resound Worship: *The Stone*