



Good Friday  
10 April 2020,  
10.30am

*Christ Church New Southgate &  
Friern Barnet*

Sermon by Rev. Ruth Moriarty

**Reading: Psalm 22**

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

<sup>2</sup> My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.

L: He said:

*ALL: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

**Reading: Mark 15.33-34**

<sup>33</sup> At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. <sup>34</sup> At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"

**Reflection led by Ruth Moriarty**

In Jesus' cry to God we hear anguish, and gut-wrenching sorrow.

In his cry we hear that sorrow that began in the garden – take this cup away Lord, this cup of suffering, in fullness on the cross.

In Jesus cry we hear the darkness of separation from God.

In his cry we notice the apocalyptic darkness that has overcome Jerusalem and our hearts today.

In Jesus cry we hear the loneliness of the son of God.

In his cry we remember the old testament atonement sacrifice of a goat abandoned to the desert.

In Jesus cry we see a frank question mark to God, from Jesus and from us.

May we explore that question mark this morning, for when we wrestle with scripture asking the holy spirit to enable us to understand, we are able to understand something of the heart of God.

In every cry to God, from those who have been abandoned, who are lost, who are alone, who feel like they are separated from his presence – Jesus understands. In every broken and desperate situation, where violence and the mob have ruled, and it seems like hope is lost – Jesus understands.

Into this desert – Jesus said: this is my body given for you. This is my blood given to you. Take and eat. Eat and remember that I've been there, I've gone before you and I understand. I've asked questions of God, and they've been from the very depth of my being.

What questions do you have about our world today? I think we all have questions about the suffering surrounding coronavirus and the brokenness of the world. Further still, we question times when the abuse of power in the church is too common, when families are hungry through no fault of their own, when we have made Easter about a bunny, let's bring our questions to God today, just like Jesus did. He said: my God, my God? So we say - even through gritted teeth and with every question, every snarling, desperate plea – my God, my God. Amen

Let's pray:

Abba Father,  
Thank you that we can bring

every question to you.

Thank you that while Jesus held a cup of suffering for a short while, we know that it became a cup of salvation.

Thank you that for every abandoned and forsaken person and place you have sent Jesus, that each and every person and situation might be transformed by the sheer beauty of your love.

Lord we confess:

when we have abandoned, forgotten and deserted others – hold us to account.

May we never brush difficult situations under the carpet but strengthen us by your Spirit to seek justice for every forsaken person and place.

For you Lord seek the broken, and heal us

For you Lord seek the lost, and find us

For you Lord seek the abandoned, and welcome us into your arms

May we be inspired by your Holy Spirit to be changemakers for you Lord.