

*Christ Church New
Southgate & Friern Barnet
Good Friday 2022*

Welcome

Song: Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as a flood
When the prince of life our ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood

Who his love will not remember,
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout heavn's eternal days

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide
Through the floodgates of God's mercy,
Flowed a vast and gracious tide

Gathering into God's presence

As this cross draws together
height and depth,
one side and another,
draw us together:
**flesh and spirit,
mind and body,
heart and soul,
that we may know your presence at the
centre of our lives.**

God of creation,
present in the darkness
and the light,
in the desert
and the running streams,
Gracious God: **we praise you.**

Saving God,
present on the cross
and at the empty tomb,
in broken bread

and wine outpoured,
Gracious God: **we praise you.**

Renewing God,
present in disturbance and comfort,
in struggle and in joy.
Gracious God: **We praise you.**

**Holy God,
for your love enfolding us
on every side,
holding us through birth and death,
joy and tears,
We praise and worship you.**

Confession

Lord Jesus, you call us
to take up our cross and follow.
When we forfeit our soul
to gain the whole world:
Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

When we are distracted
from prayer and watchfulness:
Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

When we are unfaithful
to the Gospel through denial, betrayal or
aggression:
Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

When we shrink
from the implications of love:
Lord have mercy, **Christ have mercy**

**Merciful God,
pardon our sin,
and renew in us,
as in all God's people,
the desire to follow Christ's way.
Amen.**

Reading: Luke 23.44-49 by Ola Lawal
The Death of Jesus

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵ It was about twelve o'clock when the
sun stopped shining and darkness covered

the whole country until three o'clock; and the curtain hanging in the Temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father! In your hands I place my spirit!" He said this and died.

⁴⁷ The army officer saw what had happened, and he praised God, saying, "Certainly he was a good man!"

⁴⁸ When the people who had gathered there to watch the spectacle saw what happened, they all went back home, beating their breasts in sorrow. ⁴⁹ All those who knew Jesus personally, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance to watch.

Song: When I survey
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 Lord
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 ever 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

*Sermon: 'In darkness, the power of God is moving'
by Rev'd Ruth Moriarty*

In the beginning when God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness. And the power of

God was moving. And the power of God was moving.

At 12 o'clock on that day, darkness covered the whole country. Darkness was everywhere for three solid hours. And the power of God was moving.

Here we see darkness in different ways:

Darkness that was symbolic of the power of evil at work in those who acted in fear, who believed conspiracy, who resisted liberation. This was the time when the power of darkness ruled.

Darkness that was prophetic, darkness that would come again in the days of the early church as Jerusalem falls. Darkness that comes every time the innocent suffer, every time power is corrupted, every time violence reigns. Every time Jesus is denied as the Christ.

Darkness that reminds us that Jesus dies not just for me but for the whole world, for the entire cosmos is involved and disturbed as Jesus is nailed to a tree. We see darkness as part of creation grieving the death of the son of God, the one who entered the darkness and brought life.

The prophet Joel foretells the day of the Lord as one of shaking the earth and changing the relationship between heaven and earth. At Christ's birth the skies were filled with angelic light and song, but now the sun is stopped and darkness heralds his death. The whole of creation is waiting, paused at the sight of Christ on the cross.

In darkness and dereliction, Jesus speaks: In your hands, I place my spirit. In darkness, the power of God was moving. In darkness, Jesus places his spirit back to the Father. He entrusts the mission to the earth, to humanity once more into God's hands. In darkness, they are found with each other again.

In our darkness, as individuals battling the black dog of depression, the cave of grief, loss and despair, we acknowledge the reality of our darkness and in trust we place our hand into the hand of God. In our world of darkness, where violence and war dominate too many lives, where disasters turn off the lights and darkness reigns, where addiction enfolds and encircles so that light has gone, we acknowledge the reality of the world's darkness, and we lament. We are shaken if not destroyed by loss, destruction, and death. In Luke, we see Christ present in suffering and darkness. We entrust your world to you Lord and we long for light.

And yet if the scriptures teach us anything today, we learn this: in the darkness, the power of God is moving. It was moving before the earth was created, it was moving in the clouds enveloping Moses, in the plagues of Egypt, at the cross and will be moving in that dark cold tomb. For just as a seed grows in the dark, deep down in the earth, so God is moving in the darkness. God is not static, he is moving. God is not bound to light; he moves in the shadows too. For where else can he bring light but in darkness?

To some the darkness of Christ's death was a spectacle, a spooky day out. To some it was the darkest of days which bore the death of the one they loved. But to one, a centurion, the power of God was moving. For in every other execution, surely evil was rid and justice satisfied. But this man, surely was a good man. Surely this man was someone to praise God about. Surely this was the moment in time when the world flipped, when through the darkness God moved, God moved in the darkest of hearts and the most wretched of hours. In this time of darkness, God still called those with vision to faith. In this time of darkness, change ripped through the world as the temple curtain tore, for here was a king who suffered in the dark, who bled and died for the whole world. Here is a king who

willingly gave himself up to the powers of darkness in religion, power and politics. Here is a king who began a new kind of kingdom, where even in the darkness, God is active, or where even in the darkness, God is moving.

Responsive Prayer using: Psalm 22

By Jim Cotter

In the depth of our darkness
You are rising, O Christ

Reflective activity: Prayers at the cross

As we linger today in the darkness of Good Friday, what can you place into the hands of God? What can you trust God with? Write a short prayer to God looking onto the cross as those who followed Christ did.

Song: Let us kneel at Calvary,
wonder at this mystery,
with the words 'Father forgive',
Jesus dies that we might live.
He was stripped so we might dress
in his robe of righteousness.
Bore the burden of our sin,
as the nails pierced his skin.

*We will kneel in adoration at our King's sacrifice,
see the scandal and the glory as his death brings us
life.*

*All our hope and our salvation are in his sacrifice,
at the cross.*

At the hill they call the skull,
he was crushed; we are made whole.
Jesus drank our bitter cup,
pouring out his precious blood.
God forsaken all alone,
Jesus made our shame his own.
Suffered hell on earth to save
those who drove him to the grave.

We will kneel...

He cried out, then breathed no more,
as the temple curtain tore,
made the new and living way
back to God for us that day.
Why seek Christ among the dead?
He is living as he said!
He was raised at God's command,
in the life of Christ we stand.

*We will stand in celebration for our King is alive,
see the joy and restoration as we share his new life
We are free, no condemnation for our King is alive
yes he lives, Jesus lives. Yes he lives, Jesus lives!*

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Prayer walk to St Paul's New Southgate for
communion and refreshments