

The Grouped Parishes of Annahilt and Magherahamlet

The Cross of Christ

A Passiontide Meditation



**Sunday 21 March 2021
10.00 am**

God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Processional Hymn CH 484

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!*

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ the Son of God:

Each new-born soldier of the crucified
is signed with the cross, the seal of him who died:

Saved by the cross on which their Lord was slain,
see Adam's children their lost home regain:

Lord Christ, once lifted high on Calvary's tree,
as thou has promised, draw us all to thee:

Set up thy throne, that earth's despair may cease
beneath the shadow of its healing peace:

Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Oh, to see the dawn

Choir

*Lesson 1 The Prophet Isaiah foreshows the sufferings of Christ
Isaiah 53.1-9*

Hymn CH 231

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 we 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.

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.

Lesson 2

Jesus enters Jerusalem

Mark 11.1-10

Hymn CH 238

Ride on, ride on in majesty,
 hark, all the tribes 'Hosanna' cry!
 O Saviour meek, pursue thy road
 with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty:
 in lowly pomp ride on to die;
 O Christ, thy triumphs now begin
 o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty:
 the angel armies of the sky
 look down with sad and wondering eyes
 to see the approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty:
 thy last and fiercest strife is nigh;
 the Father on his sapphire throne
 awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty:
 in lowly pomp ride on to die;
 bow thy meek head to mortal pain;
 then take, O God, thy power, and reign.

Lesson 3 Jesus institutes the Holy Communion Luke 22.7-20

In An Upper Room Choir

Lesson 4 The struggle in Gethsemane Luke 22.39-46

Hymn CH 249

When my love for Christ grows weak,
 when for deeper faith I seek,
 then in thought I go to thee,
 Garden of Gethsemane.

There I walk amid the shades,
 while the lingering twilight fades,
 see that suffering, friendless one,
 weeping, praying there alone.

When my love for man grows weak,
 when for stronger faith I seek,
 Hill of Calvary, I go
 to thy scenes of fear and woe:—

there behold his agony,
 suffered on the bitter tree:
 see his anguish, see his faith,
 Love triumphant still in death.

Then to life I turn again,
 learning all the worth of pain,
 learning all the might that lies
 in a full self-sacrifice;

and I praise with firmer faith
 Christ, who vanquished pain and death;
 and to Christ enthroned above
 raise my song of selfless love.

Lesson 5 *Jesus is betrayed* *Luke 22.47-53*

Hymn

Lord as to thy dear Cross we flee,
And plead to be forgiven,
So let thy life our pattern be,
And form our souls for heaven.

Help us, through good report and ill,
Our daily cross to bear;
Like thee, to do our Father's will,
Our brethren's griefs to share.

Let grace our selfishness expel,
Our earthliness refine,
And kindness in our bosoms dwell,
As free and true as thine.

If joy shall at thy bidding fly,
And grief's dark day come on,
We, in our turn, would meekly cry,
'Father, thy will be done.'

Kept peaceful in the midst of strife,
Forgiving and forgiven,
O may we lead the pilgrim's life,
And follow thee to heaven.

Lesson 6 *Jesus is condemned to die* *Mark 15.1-15*

A purple robe, a crown of thorns *Choir*

Lesson 7 *Jesus is crucified* *Mark 15.16-20, 25-28, 33-37*

When I survey the wondrous cross *Choir*

Hymn CH 246

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O, 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?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
O, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Lesson 8 *Christ Triumphant* *Phillipians 2.5-11*

Collection Hymn

Through all our days we'll sing the praise
of Christ, the resurrected;
who, though divine, did not decline
to be by men afflicted:
pain, pain and suffering –
he knew its taste, he bore its sting;
peace, peace has come to earth
through Christ our king and saviour.

His birth obscure, his family poor,
he owned no crown, no kingdom;
yet those who grope in darkness, hope
since he brought light and freedom:
shame, shame and agony –
though guiltless he of felony;
shout, shout his sinless name,
our Jesus, king and saviour.

At fearful cost his life he lost
that death might be defeated;
the Man of love, now risen above,
in majesty is seated:
low, low was his descent
to those by sin and sorrow bent;
life, life to all who trust
the Lord, our king and saviour.

And all who trust will find they must
obey the will of heaven;
for grief intense can make some sense
to those who are forgiven:
hard, hard the road he trod –
the Son of Man, the Son of God;
hope, hope in Christ alone,
our reigning king and saviour

*Lord Jesus, on the day of your Passion you stretched out your arms
on the hard wood of the Cross, that all might be brought within
your saving embrace. Draw us to yourself with the bands of your
love, that, being bound to you forever as your faithful servants, we
may take up our cross daily and follow you, and at last come to
your everlasting joy, who lives and reigns with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.*

***Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits
which you have given us, for all the pains and insults which you
have borne for us. Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow
you more nearly, day by day. Amen.***

*Christ draw you to himself and grant that you find in his cross a
sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of
sins forgiven, and the Blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always.
(All sing) Amen.*

Notices

Hymn CH 599

‘Take up thy cross’, the Saviour said,
‘if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.’

Take up thy cross; let not its weight
fill thy weak spirit with alarm:
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:
thy Lord for thee the cross endured,
to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross then in his strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
’twill guide thee to a better home,
and lead to victory o’er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only they who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Rector: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Rector: Let us bless the Lord

All: Thanks be to God