

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy

SCO10443



Friday 18th April 2025, Good Friday

All baptised Christians are warmly invited to share in Holy Communion, to receive bread alone, or to receive bread and drink from the chalice. All are welcome to receive a blessing at the altar. Gluten free wafers are available; please advise a sidesperson if you require this.

Music
Hammer in nails

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Our Good Friday service this year is going to focus on our senses.

Our senses help us remember. Often our senses take us back. Listen now to the sounds around us. These are the sounds of the world we live in. But we are all too easily sanitized by familiarity. We see so many dreadful images that they deaden our ability to feel.

Today, on this Good Friday, we invite you not to shy away from all that's hard and difficult, but to open yourselves up to allow your feelings to inform your hearts and to draw out your faith.

We invite you to listen to the sounds of the Cross.

SILENCE

In our service there will be a number of readings and responses, with some silent reflection and prayer designed to help us enter more deeply into the sounds and actions of Good Friday.

Let us pray.

O merciful God, you did not spare your only Son, but offered him up for us all, that he might bear our sins upon the cross. Grant that we might so examine ourselves that we realize our own sinfulness. Help us to recognize what we need to do to be changed, and so be transformed into more faithful disciples, in his name. Amen.

HYMN 76 Take up thy cross the Saviour said

SOUNDS OF BETRAYAL

Christine: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

O God - help us consider how we betray others, how we can abandon them in their time of need, how we think of ourselves first.

O God - do not let us deceive ourselves.

Our acts of betrayal hurt us and create walls between us and others. O God, we know too that our betrayal hurts you.

MATTHEW 26:14-16, 47-50

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What will you give me if I betray Jesus to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

POUR COINS AND CHAIN ON CROSS

EXTINGUISH CANDLE

SILENCE

SOUNDS OF INDECISION

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

O God - help us consider how we waver, how we seek to avoid responsibility and to blame others for our actions. O God - do not let us deceive ourselves.

Our indecision hurts us and creates walls between us and others. O God, we know too that our indecision hurts you.

MATTHEW 27:20-24

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to

them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!"

Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Christine: POUR WATER

EXTINGUISH CANDLE

SILENCE

SOUNDS OF CRUELTY

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

O God - help us consider how we are cruel to others, how we malign and slander others and add to the evil that comes upon them.

O God - do not let us deceive ourselves. Our cruelty hurts us and creates walls between us and others. When we let you down, O God, we know that our cruelty hurts you.

MATTHEW 27:27-31, 39-42 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.'

PLACE CROWN OF THORNS AND RED CLOTH ON CROSS (TEAR CLOTH)

EXTINGUISH CANDLE

SILENCE

SOUNDS OF DENIAL

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

O God - help us consider how we DENY Christ in all sorts of ways; how we often fail to reveal the truth, how through fear and guilt we do things that hurt and leave others wounded and perplexed and we can deny the Gospel message they seek to carry.

Luke 22:54-62

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, 'This man also was with him.' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not!' Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.'

But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!' At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

EXTINGUISH CANDLE

SILENCE

HYMN 92 There is a green hill far away

INTERCESSIONS

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

As we consider ourselves, and what we are capable of, we offer ourselves to God, giving thanks for the gifts we possess and asking forgiveness for our many short comings.

We watch at a distance,
and are slow to follow Christ in the way of the cross.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We warm our hands by the fire,
and are afraid to be counted among his disciples.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We run away,
and fail to share the pain of Christ's suffering.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Be pleased O God, in the name of Jesus, to accept all that we offer at this time. Look upon the intentions of our hearts as we continue to meditate on the sacrifice of your Son, who was cruelly nailed to the cross by hands such as ours, for our redemption. Amen.

HYMN SP49 O love that wilt not let me go

THE COMMUNION

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

We thank you, Lord our God,
for this world which you have
given us; you never cease
to make it new, and you call
us to work with you; you accept
the work of our hands.

R. Glory to you for ever

You have made humankind in your image; each one of us is fashioned in your likeness, and we are able to recognise your face in the faces of our brothers and sisters.

R. Glory to you for ever

You have never desired to live apart from us, and you have taught us to know you through the Law and the Prophets, the Apostles and Evangelists, who told us the marvellous story of your love.

R. Glory to you for ever

And you have come to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. In him you have walked along our roads, looked at us with human eyes, done the kind of things that we do, and shared with us the joy that can never be lost.

R. Glory to you for ever

Now you give us his Body and Blood, and we give ourselves to you. Through the death and resurrection of your Son, through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us, we can make you our eternal home.

R. Glory to you for ever

So, with all Christians who are gathered together today everywhere, throughout the world, and with the great procession of your Saints, as brothers and sisters we pray to you, as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever.
Amen.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace.**

HYMN SP61 We cannot measure(Ye banks and braes)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty and eternal God, you have restored us to life by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ. Continue this healing work within us. May we who partake of this mystery never cease to give you dedicated service. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

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, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn: 95 When I survey the wondrous cross

Christine: EXTINGUISH CANDLE

Clergy & congregation leave in silence