



Good Friday 2023

Meditation Hymn: Andrew Lloyd Webbers's *Requiem*

Welcome:

Acknowledgement of First Peoples:

As we gather together on this Good Friday, we acknowledge that we are on the land of the Gadigal and Wangal people and that the Spirit was in the land revealing God to them through law, custom and ceremony.

We honour the wisdom of the Gadigal and Wangal Elders and their continuing culture, and pray that we might all work together for reconciliation and justice in this nation.

Moment of Stillness:

Collect for Good Friday:

It is Friday, Holy One,
and we stand at the foot of the cross.

Where shall we cast our eyes?

We look down. We glance to the side.

We stare inward. We look up at Jesus.

My God, my God, what does this mean?

How is this sacred?

How can this save?

How is this love?

This is a hard place to stand.

We want to run away.

Yet you, gracious God, bid us stay.

So, we ask for courage, patience and calm.

Help us to watch and listen and pray.

It is Friday,

and we stand at the foot of the cross.

Hold on to us here. Do not let us go.

This we pray in the precious name of Jesus,

Amen.

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. 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.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.
3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

JESUS SEVEN WORDS FROM THE CROSS

1. Luke 23:33-34 (Chris)

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.**” And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Silence

(Joy)

Your forgiveness,
encompassing, embracing, lies beyond our comprehension.
Protect us from the bitterness of the older brother who resents
generosity.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
you have set us free.**

The first candle is extinguished (Chris)

Music: Were you there? verse 1

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2. Luke 23:39-43 (Marian)

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**”

Silence

(Joy)

Your heaven,
You offered to a criminal, punished and rejected.
We shall gain paradise when we, like him,
can recognise the face of God.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
you have set us free.**

The second candle is extinguished (Marian)

Music: Were you there? verse 2

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3. John 19:25-27 (Chris)

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, **"Woman, here is your son."** ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, **"Here is your mother."** And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Silence

(Joy)

Watching, she weeps
at the torture we witness.
Yet in his pain the Son offers comfort,
consolation out of the depths.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
you have set us free.**

The third candle is extinguished (Chris)

Music: Were you there? verse 3

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

4. John 19:28-29 (Marian)

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), **“I am thirsty.”** ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

Silence

(Joy)

Our incarnate God
knows in his body his people's needs.
Your voice echoes still
through all generations whom poverty crucifies.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
you have set us free.**

Prayer for Good Friday: (Ron)

Today God
we remember your pain
a crown of thorns
public disgrace
nails hammered through living flesh
blood streaming from open wounds
lungs starved of air
slow agony as life drains away

at the foot of the cross we weep for victims of violence
for the innocent who suffer
from war and famine and disease

we weep for victims of injustice
for those who are homeless and hopeless
who wander streets and sleep in doorways

we weep for victims of economic forces
for the ones who have no work and no money
and have lost their self-respect

we weep for the lonely and isolated people
who are the targets of other people's prejudice
and are defenceless in the face of taunts and mockery

we weep for our own pain...

at the foot of the cross
we weep for the pain we cannot stop
and cannot bear.

You, Lord. You have borne it. You bear it with us
and your love is stronger than all our pain
stronger than death.

We thank you for the love that bears the cross
and enters into death willingly for humankind;
for your love that lives and grows in the world by your Spirit
in all who reach out to tend the wounds of others.

We thank you for the love that comes to us when we are in pain
and other people's hands that reach out
to soothe the hurt and calm our fear.

We thank you for the courage of those
who take up the pain of your people
and spend their time, their energy and their health
in working for justice and peace in politics and public life.

We thank you that everywhere in your world
the light of your love shines in the darkness
from an empty cross and cannot be put out.

At the foot of the cross
we weep for the pain we cannot stop
and cannot bear
and yet we know
that you have borne it,
Lord, you bear it with us
and your love is stronger than all our pain
stronger even than death.

We give you thanks and praise
God of love, God of healing, God of hope.
Amen

The fourth candle is extinguished (Ron)
Music: Were you there? Verse 4

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

5. Matthew 27:45-46 (Chris)

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Silence

(Joy)
Suffering, alone,
You, Lord, penetrated the depths of human pain.
Now through the darkest valleys of our sorrows
Our God walks with us.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
you have set us free.**

The fifth candle is extinguished (Chris)
Music: Were you there? verse 5

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

6. Luke 23:44-46 (Marian)

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Silence

(Joy)

Daddy, you called,
take me home.
Give me the faith of the child who lies back
in the parent's arms,
certain of love.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection,
you have set us free.**

The sixth candle is extinguished (Marian)
Music: Were you there? verse 1

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

7. John 19:30 (Chris)

³⁰When Jesus had received the wine, he said, **"It is finished."** Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Silence

(Joy)
It is finished,
The hatred, the persecution
The suffering, the pain.
The life
It is finished.

(Joy) The Christ candle is extinguished and 3 loud knocks are made on the table to represent the death of Christ

Silence

(Joy)
Jesus is dead...
he has been taken from the cross
and has been buried...
it is finished.
We leave here in the darkness.

People tell us rumours of light,
of resurrection,
of a new day,
but it seems too hard to believe them:
They cannot know the death and hell we know.
We wonder what can be resurrected from this.

We leave here waiting, confident only in the company of
Jesus, in our lives, our fear, our hell and our hope.
Go in the uneasy peace of this Good Friday.

Amen.

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