

ST JOHN'S, RANMOOR



MEDITATIONS AND THE SOLEMN LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY

3rd April 2026 | 12 noon & 1.30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATIONS

12- 12.30pm

HYMN

There is a green hill far away
C.F. Alexander (1818-95)

1 There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

4 There was no other good enough
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate
Of heaven, and let us in.

2 We may not know, we cannot tell
What pains He had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

5 O, dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love Him too,
And trust in his redeeming blood
And try his works to do.

3 He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good;
That we might go at last to heaven,
Saved by his precious blood.

Reflection
Prayer Station

12.30 – 1pm

HYMN

Drop, drop, slow tears
Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)

1 Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beautiful feet,
Which brought from heaven
The news and Prince of peace.

3 In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye
See sin, but through my tears.

2 Cease not, wet eyes,
His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.

1 – 1.30pm

HYMN

O Sacred head verses 1, 4 & 5

14th century Latin Hymn, *Tr* Robert Bridges (1844-1930)

1 O sacred head, sore wounded,
Defiled and put to scorn;
O kingly head, surrounded
With mocking crown of thorn:
What sorrow mars thy grandeur?
Can death thy bloom deflower?
O countenance whose splendor
The hosts of heaven adore!

2 In thy most bitter passion
My heart to share doth cry,
With thee for my salvation
Upon the cross to die.
Ah, keep my heart thus movèd
To stand thy Cross beneath,
To mourn thee, well-belovèd,
Yet thank thee for thy death.

3 My days are few, O fail not,
With thine immortal power,
To hold me that I quail not
In death's most fearful hour:
That I may fight befriended,
And see in my last strife
To me thine arms extended
Upon the cross of life.

THE SOLEMN LITURGY OF GOOD FRIDAY

THE GATHERING

*The ministers enter in SILENCE.
The ministers PROSTRATE before the altar and pray in SILENCE.
All may KNEEL for a time of silent prayer.*

THE COLLECT

All STAND and the president says the COLLECT.

Almighty Father,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
All Amen.

All SIT.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 52.13–end of 53

See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.
Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.
Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;

and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SILENCE is kept.

PSALM

Psalm 31

Sung by the choir. The congregation is invited to join with the singing of the refrain.



NEW TESTAMENT

Hebrews 10.16-25

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

The Holy Spirit testifies to us, for after saying,
'This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds',
he also adds,
'I will remember- their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.
Therefore, my friends,- since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood
of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is,
through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us
approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean
from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to
the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is
faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not
neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept.

All STAND.

HYMN

We sing the praise of him who died

Thomas Kelly (1769-1855)

1 We sing the praise of him who died,
Of him who died upon the cross;
The sinner's hope let men deride,
For this we count the world but loss.

2 Inscribed upon the Cross we see
In shining letters, 'God is Love';
He bears our sins upon the Tree;
He brings us mercy from above.

3 The Cross! It takes our guilt away;
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day,
And sweetens ev'ry bitter cup.

4 It makes the coward spirit brave,
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes its terror from the grave,
And gilds the bed of death with light;

5 The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heaven above.

All SIT.

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 18.1 – end of 19

Passio secundum Joannem by Tomàs Luis de Victoria

At the end of the singing of the Passion silence is kept.

MOTET

Ex ore innocentium

Music: John Ireland (1879-1932)

text: Bishop W W How (1823-1897)

*It is a thing most wonderful, Almost too wonderful to be,
That God's own Son should come from heaven, And die to save a child like me.
And yet I know that it is true: He chose a poor and humble lot,
And wept, and toiled and mourned and died, For love of those who loved him not.
I sometimes think about the Cross, And shut my eyes,
and try to see The cruel nails and crown of thorns, And Jesus crucified for me.
But even could I see him die, I should but see a little part Of that great love,
which, like a fire, Is always burning in his heart.*

*And yet I want to love thee, Lord; O light the flame within my heart,
And I will love thee more and more, Until I see thee as thou art.*

SILENCE will be kept.

ALL STAND.

THE VENERATION OF THE CROSS

A wooden cross is brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people. The congregation is invited to TURN towards the WEST END of the church. As the cross is carried in, the procession stops three times, and each time the following is said:

*This is the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.
All **Come, let us worship.***

The clergy, followed by those who wish to, comes forward and kneels before the cross as an act of veneration remembering all that Christ suffered for us.

ANTHEMS

*The Reproaches
John Sanders (1933-2003)*

*O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!
I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, but you led your Saviour to the cross.
O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!
Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.
For forty years I led you safely through the desert. I fed you with manna from heaven, and brought you to a land of plenty; but you led your Saviour to the cross.
Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.
What more could I have done for you? I planted you as my fairest vine, but you yielded only bitterness: when I was thirsty you gave me vinegar to drink, and you pierced your Saviour's side with a lance.
Holy is God! Holy and strong! Holy immortal One, have mercy on us.
I opened the sea before you, but you opened my side with a spear.
I led you on your way in a pillar of cloud, but you led me to Pilate's court.
O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!
I bore you up with manna in the desert, but you struck me down and scourged me.
I gave you saving water from the rock, but you gave me gall and vinegar to drink.
O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!*

*I gave you a royal sceptre, but you gave me a crown of thorns.
I raised you to the height of majesty, but you have raised me high on a cross.
O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!*

*Crux Fidelis
Anon.*

*Crux fidelis, inter omnes
arbor una nobilis:
nulla silva talem profert,
fronde, flore, germine.
Dulce lignum, dulces clavos,
dulce pondus sustinet.*

*Faithful Cross! above all other,
One and only noble tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom,
None in fruit thy peer mat be;
Sweetest wood and sweetest iron,
Sweetest weight is hung on thee.*

**All STAND.
HYMN**

Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle

**1 Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,
Sing the ending of the fray,
O'er the Cross, the victor's trophy,
Sound the loud triumphant lay:
Tell how Christ, the world's Redeemer,
As a Victim won the day.**

**4 Thirty years among us dwelling,
Now at length his hour fulfilled,
Born for this, he meets his Passion,
For that this he freely willed,
On the Cross the Lamb is lifted,
Where his life-blood shall be spilled.**

**2 God in pity saw man fallen,
Shamed and sunk in misery,
When he fell on death by tasting
Fruit of the forbidden tree:
Then another tree was chosen
Which the world from death should
free.**

**5 To the Trinity be glory,
To the Father and the Son,
With the co-eternal Spirit,
Ever three and ever One;
One in love and one in splendour,
While unending ages run. Amen**

**3 Therefore when the appointed fulness
Of the holy time was come,
He was sent who maketh all things
Forth from God's eternal home:
Thus he came to earth, incarnate,
Offspring of a maiden's womb.**

*At the end of the HYMN, please SIT or KNEEL.
SILENCE is kept.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

The president introduces the prayers.

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father
for people everywhere according to their needs.

*A minister reads the prayers of intercessions during which the congregation is invited to
respond with the following.*

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

SILENCE is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Standing at the foot of the cross,
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.**

A period of SILENCE is kept, concluding with the HYMN.

HYMN

When I survey the wondrous cross
Issac Watts (1674-1748)

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 His dying crimson like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
Them am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

5 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.

CONCLUSION

SILENCE is kept.

O Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
set your passion, cross and death
between your judgement and our souls,
now and in the hour of our death.
Grant mercy and grace to the living,
rest to the departed,
to your Church peace and concord
and to us sinners forgiveness,
and everlasting life and glory;
for, with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
you are alive and reign,
God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The ministers and people depart in silence



You are welcome to join us at the following services:

HOLY SATURDAY 4TH APRIL

8.30pm Easter Vigil

EASTER SUNDAY 5th APRIL

10.30am Easter Day Parish Communion

Contact Us:

www.stjohnsranmoor.org.uk

Registered Charity 1135432

5 Ranmoor Park Road, Sheffield, S10 3GX

0114 230 1199

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