



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

## Ballarat Central Uniting Church

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026 @ 9 a.m.

### GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

***“THE REMEMBERED JESUS: At the Crossroads!”***  
***Moments of Truth!***

#### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

INTROIT: TiS 345 vv 1-5 - Were you there?

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 pierced him in the side?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

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#### GREETING

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**ALL: *And also with you!***

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

#### GATHERING WORDS & INTRODUCTION

##### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Light the candle in the pot of earth in front of the Communion Table.*

We gather at a crossroad.

***We know not what lies ahead.***

We know that we will encounter betrayal, pain, and loneliness.

***Yet, through Jesus, we are shown how to stand on our own and with all the suffering.***

The powers of death and isolation are great.

***Yet, in God, we discover a way of peace and companionship.***

##### OPENING PRAYER

##### ADORATION AND THANKSGIVING

**Psalm 27 - Triumphant Song of Confidence Of David.**

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**<sup>2</sup> *When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.***

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

**<sup>4</sup> *One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,***

***to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.***

<sup>5</sup> For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

**<sup>6</sup> *Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.***

<sup>7</sup> Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

**<sup>8</sup> *“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.***

<sup>9</sup> Do not hide your face from me.

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

<sup>10</sup> ***If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.***

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

<sup>12</sup> ***Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.***

<sup>13</sup> I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

<sup>14</sup> ***Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!***

**HYMN:** Old Rugged Cross!

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suffering and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.*

O, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
has a wondrous attraction for me;  
for the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
to bear it to dark Calvary.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.*

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
then He'll call me some day to my home far away,  
where His glory forever I'll share.

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.*

*Author: Rev. George Bennard. © Revived 1996 Word Music*

**INVOCATION**

## **1. MOMENT OF TRUTH: Jesus is sentenced to death!**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe.

They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.'

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

*John 19:1–7 (NRSV)*

***Place a crown of thorn on the cross ...***

We pray together:

**SUNG: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

*(Tune: TIS 736)*

## **REFLECTION:**

### **2. MOMENT OF TRUTH: Jesus is handed over to be crucified!**

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever.

He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me?

Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.'

From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called the Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon.

He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!'

Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?'

The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.'

Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

*John 19:8–16a (NRSV)*

***Place a knife/sword beside the Cross ...***

We pray together:

**SUNG: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

*(Tune: TiS 736)*

**HYMN:** TiS 123 - Be still my soul. (*v 1, 2*)

Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;

bear patiently the cross of grief and pain;

leave to your God to order and provide;

in every change he faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend

through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

Be still, my soul: your God will undertake

to guide the future as he has the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake,

all now mysterious shall be clear at last.

Be still, my soul: the tempests still obey

his voice, who ruled them once on Galilee.

*Katharina von Schlegel 1697-? tr. Jane Laurie Borthwick 1813-97 alt.*

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### **3. MOMENT OF TRUTH: Jesus is crucified in Golgotha!**

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.'

Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek.

Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."'

Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' *John 19:16b–22 (NRSV)*

***Place nails beside the Cross ...***

We pray together:

**SUNG: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

*(Tune: TiS 736)*

### **MEDITATION:**

#### **4. MOMENT OF TRUTH: Jesus' clothes are divided!**

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier.

They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.'

This was to fulfil what the scripture says, 'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

And that is what the soldiers did.

*John 19:23–25 (NRSV)*

***Place folded clothes beside the Cross ...***

We pray together:

**SUNG: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

*(Tune: TiS 736)*

**HYMN: TiS 357 – When his time was over!**

When his time was over the palms lay where they fell.  
As they ate together he told his friends farewell.  
Jesus, though you cried out for some other end,  
love could only choose a cross when our life began again.  
Secretly they planned it, with money changing hands;  
in the quiet garden a kiss betrayed their man.  
Priests and elders tried him. Soldiers crowned him king.  
We were in the crowd that day when our life began again.

Women wept to see him; he said, ‘Don’t weep for me.’  
Many laughed and mocked him: ‘Forgive them, they don’t see.’  
Jesus, please forgive me, you know what I am;  
I was one who nailed your hands when our life began again.

There was one who asked you, ‘Remember me this day.’  
Jesus, when I’m dying, remember me that way;  
when my life is over, be with me, my friend,  
like the thief upon the cross, when our life began again.

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**5. MOMENT OF TRUTH: Jesus’ roles are shared!**

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.  
When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, here is your son.’  
Then he said to the disciple, ‘Here is your mother.’  
And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. *John 19:25–27 (NRSV)*

***Place symbols of love and relationship beside the Cross ...***

We pray together:

**SUNG: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.** (Tune: TiS 736)

**REFLECTION:**

**6. MOMENT OF TRUTH: Jesus is given sour wine!**

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), ‘I am thirsty.’

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.

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

*John 19:28–30 (NRSV)*

***Place a jar of sour wine beside the Cross ...***

We pray together:

**SUNG: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

(Tune: TiS 736)

**REFLECTION:**

**PSALM 22:8-9,17-18,19-20,23-24**

*Words and music: Christopher Walker*

Christopher Walker

My God, my God, my God, my God., why have you for -  
sa - ken me, for - sa - ken me, my God, my God.

**Response**

***My God, my God, my God, my God,  
why have you forsaken me, forsaken me,  
my God, my God.***

All you who see me, deride, curl their lips and toss their heads.  
He trusted in the Lord; let God save him,  
let God release him, if this is God’s friend.

**Response**

Many dogs surround me, and wicked men assault me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;  
I can count every one of my bones.

**Response**

They divide my clothes among them. They cast lots for my robe;  
O Lord, do not leave me alone!  
You are my strength, make haste to help.

**Response**

I will tell your name to my people. Where they gather I will praise you.  
All who fear God give praise and give glory.  
Israel revere God the Lord.

**Response**

### **7. MOMENT OF TRUTH: The death of Jesus!**

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity.

So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.

Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him.

But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.

*John 19:31–34 (NRSV)*

***Spread sand over the Cross.***

We pray together:

**SUNG: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

*(Tune: TiS 736)*

**REFLECTION:**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**

*(Followed by the Lord's Prayer in the version and language of your choice)*

### **LET US REMEMBER JESUS:**

*Come and place your flower/s at the cross of Jesus, offer your own prayer and reflection while we sing "Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom!"*

**HYMN:** TiS 730 – Jesus, remember me!

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom!

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom!

*Author: James Berthier 1923-94.*

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### **8. MOMENT OF TRUTH: Jesus is laid to rest!**

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus.

Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds.

They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid.

And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*John 19:38–42 (NRSV)*

***Place rocks at the front of the Cross ...***

**HYMN:** TiS 342 – When I survey the wonderous cross!

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.

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?

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.

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#### **FINAL PRAYER AND DEPARTURE:**

When hope has left ***still we watch and wait.***

When darkness prevails ***Still we search for light.***

When the road is hidden ***Still we seek a guide.***

The remembered Christ of the crossroads, hold us in these moments  
as we wait for a garden vision,  
a mealtime revelation,  
a locked room blessing,  
and a lakeside renewal.

***We go in peace and hope.***

***Please depart reverently and quietly ...***

**Worship Leaders** – Rev Lauleti Tu’inauvai; **Elder** – Merriel Le Marshall;  
**Readers** – Glenice Warner, Bron James; **Prayer** – Adri Stickland; **BCUC  
Choir, Music & Choir Director** – Helen Duggan; **Organist, keyboardist** –  
Evan Duggan; **IT, Video & Audio** – Ben Daniel; **Welcome** – Nancy  
O’Loughlin; **Door Stewards** – Lyn & Ron Fleming; **Morning Tea** – There  
will be no morning tea.

*Prayers and reflections are adapted from Season of the Spirits 2023,  
Stephen J Maunder Good Friday Worship and Uniting in Worship. Songs  
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