



The Footscray Baptist Church celebrates the God-given diversity of cultures. We welcome you to join us in the journey of faith, whatever your race, religion, capability, gender or sexuality.

Order of Service - Good Friday, 2022

Call to Worship

This is the day when life is raw, quivering, terrifying
the day of numbed emotions

The day of blunt nails
and splintered wood
of bruised flesh
and red blood.

The day we loathe,
when all is made
meaningless.

The day we long for,
when pretences
fall away.

Because the worst that
we can do cannot
kill your love.

(From Be Our Freedom Lord, p. 332)

Station 1

Sentencing To and Fro (Luke 22:66-71, 23: 1-25)

66 When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. **67** They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; **68** and if I question you, you will not answer. **69** But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." **70** All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." **71** Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!" Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus^[a] before Pilate. **2** They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."^[b] **3** Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." **4** Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." **5** But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place." When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. **7** And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. **8** When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. **9** He questioned him at some length, but Jesus^[c] gave him no answer. **10** The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. **11** Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him, and sent him back to Pilate. **12** That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies. **13** Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and

the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ I will therefore have him flogged and release him.” ¹⁸ Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” ¹⁹ (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) ²⁰ Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; ²¹ but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²² A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” ²³ But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. ²⁵ He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

Prayer

God of us all,

We confess that we have betrayed others, ourselves and you.

We have denied others truth, our friendship and our honesty.

We have deserted another in their time of need.

We have given false testimony to save ourselves.

We have taken your name in vain and denied your part in our lives.

We lack courage to discover the truth

We let others take the fall for our failings, be a pawn in our game

We want to win no matter what the cost

We look for the easy way out

Have mercy on us and shower us in your forgiveness.

Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, April 2022)

Station 2

Sharing the burden (Luke 23:26-31)

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ ³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ ³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Prayers for the world

God of us all,

Just as Simon of Cyrene carried the cross for you for a time, you too call us to share the pain of others, to walk the road with them, to lighten the load.

We pray for those who have had their silence interpreted as assent.

We pray for those who have been falsely accused and tried.

We pray for those who have been subjected to humiliation, who have been mocked and ridiculed

We pray for those whose dignity has been stripped away

We pray for those who experience violence and violation.

We pray for peace in places where there is unrest and turmoil, especially in Afghanistan, Myanmar and Ukraine

We pray for justice where tyranny reigns.

We pray for freedom where people are imprisoned by fear, walls or expectations.

We pray for comfort where there is sadness or loss.

We pray for those who are denied justice, denied their needs, denied life in all its abundance.

Reveal your love to them and help us to share their burdens.

We pray, in the name of the crucified one. Amen.

(Prayer by Cheryl Williams, April 2022)

Station 3

Crucifixion and Death (Luke 23:32-46)

32 Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. **33** When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus^[e] 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. **35** And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" **36** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, **37** and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" **38** There was also an inscription over him,^[a] "This is the King of the Jews." **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^[k] your kingdom." **43** He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." **4** It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, **45** while the sun's light failed;^[m] 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.

Reflective Prayer

When the alleluias fall silent
and the story comes to a stop
and the words fade out mid-sentence
and even the stones keep quiet

and those who still find there is something to say
shout for the wrong side

then you know
the Lord of Life
has finished the parable
with one final sentence
'It is finished'

and the tragedy bows its final bow in the world
and is entombed

all that remains
is the fear

that we may never find our voices again
and we will forget
how to speak of love
now the word
has been silenced
and the story
run out of endings¹

Song - Were You There When They Crucified my Lord (verses 1 & 2)

Station 4

A Centurion, a crowd and some women (Luke 23:47-49)

⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." ⁴⁸ And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Reflection - A Criminal, A Centurion & Some Women

Song - Jesus, remember me

Station 5

Burial (Luke 23:50-56)

⁵⁰ Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council, ⁵¹ had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning.^[a] ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Song - were You There When They Crucified my Lord (verses 3 & 4)

Departing Prayer

and so it is done
love is crushed
and the world has got away with it
the light seems paler
the air thinner
the birds quieter
the shadows longer
the wine more bitter
the bread dry and the path doesn't seem to go anywhere now²

¹ From 'Endings' written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on the New Kilpatrick Parish Church website. <https://www.nkchurch.org.uk/original-liturgy>

² From 'The Death of Jesus' written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on Mucky Paws. <http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

