### **A Liturgy for Passiontide**

## **Passion Sunday 29 March 2020**

*In these readings and prayers we reflect on the mystery of the cross: Why did Jesus have to die? On Calvary God identifies with his suffering world as well as offering hope and transformation.*

*The Hymns and Anthems have links which will open to You Tube. Each one is* **underlined.** *Click on them and you will hear the piece; you can skip the adverts in each case!!*

**Reading** *1 Corinthians 1:18-25*

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart. "Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?   
For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

**Hymn** [**My Song is love unknown**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HMart4wXsI0)

*Interspersed with this reflection are two sonnets written by the Revd Malcolm Guite, Chaplain to Girton College, Cambridge. They are taken from his series of sonnets reflecting on the traditional Stations of the Cross. The link to the page on which the series can be found can be found at the end of this reflection. You may like to use them over the next fortnight.*

**Sonnet**

XI Crucifixion: Jesus is nailed to the cross

See, as they strip the robe from off his back

And spread his arms and nail them to the cross,

The dark nails pierce him and the sky turns black,

And love is firmly fastened onto loss.

But here a pure change happens. On this tree

Loss becomes gain, death opens into birth.

Here wounding heals and fastening makes free

Earth breathes in heaven, heaven roots in earth.

And here we see the length, the breadth, the height

Where love and hatred meet and love stays true

Where sin meets grace and darkness turns to light

We see what love can bear and be and do,

And here our saviour calls us to his side

His love is free, his arms are open wide.

*Malcom Guite*

**Reading** *Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12*

Behold, my servant shall prosper,

he shall be exalted and lifted up,

and shall be very high.

As many were astonished at him --

his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,

and his form beyond that of the sons of men --

so shall he startle many nations;

kings shall shut their mouths because of him;

for that which has not been told them they shall see,

and that which they have not heard they shall understand.

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 comeliness that we should look at him,

and no beauty that we should desire him.

He was despised and rejected by men;

a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;

and as one from whom men hide their faces

he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken,

smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,

he was bruised for our iniquities;

upon him was the chastisement that made us whole,

and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have turned every one to his own way;

and the LORD has laid on him

the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,

yet he opened not his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,

and like a sheep that before its shearers is dumb,

so he opened not his mouth.

By oppression and judgment he was taken away;

and as for his generation, who considered

that he was cut off out of the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people?

And they made his grave with the wicked

and with a rich man in his death,

although he had done no violence,

and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to bruise him;

he has put him to grief;

when he makes himself an offering for sin,

he shall see his offspring, he shall prolong his days;

the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand;

he shall see the fruit of the travail of his soul and be satisfied;

by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,

make many to be accounted righteous;

and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out his soul to death,

and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Sonnet**

XIV Jesus is laid in the tomb

Here at the centre everything is still

Before the stir and movement of our grief

Which bears it’s pain with rhythm, ritual,

Beautiful useless gestures of relief.

So they anoint the skin that cannot feel

Soothing his ruined flesh with tender care,

Kissing the wounds they know they cannot heal,

With incense scenting only empty air.

He blesses every love that weeps and grieves

And makes our grief the pangs of a new birth.

The love that’s poured in silence at old graves

Renewing flowers, tending the bare earth,

Is never lost. In him all love is found

And sown with him, a seed in the rich ground.

*Malcom Guite*

## **A Litany for Passiontide**

God the Father

##### Have mercy upon us

God the Son

##### Have mercy upon us

God the Holy Spirit

##### Have mercy upon us

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity

##### Have mercy upon us

From all evil and mischief;

From pride, vanity and hypocrisy;

From envy, hatred and malice;

And from all evil intent

##### Good Lord, deliver us

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;

From hardness of heart and contempt of your word and your laws

##### Good Lord, deliver us

From sins of body and mind;

From the deceits of the world the flesh and the devil

**Good Lord, deliver us**

From famine and disaster;

From violence, murder and sudden death

**Good Lord, deliver us**

In all times of sorrow;

In all times of joy;

In the hour of death,

And at the day of judgement

**Good Lord, deliver us**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;

By your birth, childhood and obedience;

By your baptism, fasting and temptation

**Good Lord, deliver us**

By your agony and trial;

By your cross and passion

And by your precious death and burial

###### Good Lord, deliver us

By your mighty resurrection;

By your glorious ascension;

And by your sending of the Holy Spirit

###### Good Lord, deliver us

Give us true repentance;

Forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins;

And grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit

To amend our lives according to your holy word

**Holy God**

**Holy and strong**

**Holy and immortal**

**Have mercy upon us**

**Hymn** [**Sing my tongue the glorious battle**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mcyg4foKqRQ)

**Reading** *Exodus 24:3-8*

Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice, and said, "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do."

And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." And Moses took the blood and threw it upon the people, and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words."

**Anthem** [**Ave Verum Corpus - Byrd**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2ckGcpx6xI)

**Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;

Body of Christ, save me;

Blood of Christ, inebriate me;

Water from the side of Christ, wash me;

Passion of Christ, strengthen me;

O good Jesus hear me;

Within your wounds hide me;

separated from you, let me never be;

From the evil one protect me;

At the hour of my death, call me;

And close to you bid me; That with your saints,

I may be praising you forever and ever.

**Reading** *Hebrews 5:5-10*

So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchiz'edek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard for his godly fear. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchiz'edek.

**Hymn** [**O Sacred Head! sore wounded**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M4uUJibpvw)

**Reading** *John 3:13-17*

No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man.   
And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up,   
that whoever believes in him may have eternal life."

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

**Anthem** [**God so loved the world – Stainer**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLvthjDEUnQ)

**Prayers**

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

O God, our judge and saviour, set before us the vision of your purity and let us see our sins in the light of your holiness. Pierce our self-contentment with the shafts of your burning love and let love consume in us all that hinders us from perfect service of your cause; for your holiness is our judgement, so are your wounds our salvation. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, your passion and death is the sacrifice that unites earth and heaven  
and reconciles all people to you. May we who have faithfully reflected on these mysteries  
follow in your steps and so come to share your glory in heaven where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit one God, for ever and ever.

**Collect for Passion Sunday**

Most merciful God,

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

###### The Lord’s Prayer

**Hymn** [**When I survey the wondrous Cross**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9eCUqz_x5A)

[**The Stations of the Cross by Malcom Guite**](https://malcolmguite.wordpress.com/2013/03/16/passion-sunday-the-stations-of-the-cross)