

GOOD FRIDAY

# FERINTOSH PARISH CHURCH

WORSHIP AT HOME



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At the age of 13 I was given a brand-new King James Bible. Inside were written these words, 'this book is not a dull book to those who know the author!' It's also been said, No God, No peace. Know God, Know Peace! On this Good Friday I hope and pray that we all might come to know the author of Scripture so that we can all know God and know peace that passes all understanding.

As I said yesterday, if only this page you are reading could turn into a mirror and your reflection appear, then you would see the joy set before Christ on Good Friday. For God's people are the rescued lamb laid across the Good Shepherd's shoulders, we are the lost coin found, the Prodigal Son embraced. You made His heart rejoice then. You make His heart rejoice now. You will make His heart, and He yours, rejoice for all eternity. How wonderful, how marvellous that Jesus endured the agonies of the cross and that His people are the joy that was set before him!

# HYMN

1 And can it be that I should gain  
An int'rest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain?  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

2 'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!  
Who can explore His strange design?  
In vain the firstborn seraph tries  
To sound the depths of love divine!  
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,  
Let angel minds inquire no more.

3 He left His Father's throne above,  
So free, so infinite His grace;  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race;  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;  
For, O my God, it found out me.

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free;  
I rose, went forth and followed Thee.

5 No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

## READING JOHN 19: 1 - 16

1 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him.  
2 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe.  
3 Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.  
4 Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."  
5 Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"

6 Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him."

7 The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to [b]our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

8 Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid,

9 and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

10 Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?"

11 Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore, the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

12 From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

14 Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!"

15 But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!"

16 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. Then they took Jesus and led Him away.

## LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

# SERMON

What do we see here in John 19:16 when we read ***Then they took Jesus and led Him away?*** Well, remember in the Old Testament on the day of Atonement one of the rituals of that day was for the high priest to ensure that the sins of God's people were atoned for and that the sins of the people were led away from them.

We read about this in ***Leviticus ch16*** and specifically the ritual of the high priest placing his hands on a goat and then symbolically confessing the sins of the people on to the goat's head. This meant that the goat would then carry the full weight of the sins of God's people which then symbolised that the sins of the people had been removed from them.

After this, the goat was led into the wilderness by a Usain Bolt or at least by someone who was a very fast runner. This was done so that the sins could not be recovered, found or brought back. If anyone tried to find the sins that once belonged to the people, they could not be found because they had been carried away forever! **This goat that was led away was quite literally the scapegoat.**

Now, It's Good Friday and you know where I'm going to go with this. In John 19 Jesus is brought before the priests and rulers of His day and they pronounce Him guilty and sentence Him to be **led away** to the wilderness of Calvary!

But notice that it's not the high priest who lays hold of Jesus but its Someone Greater. Listen to this, ***God has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53)***. God had laid hold of His precious Son, Christ Jesus, and He was made sin for us. Christ became the substitute for our sin and guilt, bearing our sin upon His shoulders represented by the cross. Therefore, we see in Christ the New Testament **Great Scapegoat** carrying our confessed sin far away from us. The bible tells us ***As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us (Psalm 103)***.

On Good Friday God Himself, by taking hold of Jesus, imputes (or has placed) our sins on to Christ so that at the cross Jesus carried our sins far away from us forever! In return God imputes (or has placed) on us the righteousness of Christ which becomes ours forever.

On the cross our Great Scapegoat has removed the confessed sin from us so that instead of being cut off from God; we have peace with God. Instead of being far from God, Christ has brought us near through His shed Blood!

Have you/we laid hold of Christ in prayer and confession of sins? If you have then the Lord has made you fit for heaven. **As Christ was led away, so He has led away or carried away our confessed sins and cast them into the sea of God's forgetfulness where He has put up a sign which says....NO FISHING!** It's important to remember that while Christ on the cross has removed our sins far from us, **He isn't far from us today!!**

May God grant us mercy and grace on this Good Friday as we worship and give thanks that through Christ alone, we can Know God and Know Peace.

## HYMN

1 Man of sorrows what a name  
for the Son of God, who came  
ruined sinners to reclaim:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

2 Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
in my place condemned he stood,  
sealed my pardon with his blood:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

3 Guilty, helpless, lost were we;  
blameless Lamb of God was he,  
sacrificed to set us free:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

4 He was lifted up to die;  
"It is finished" was his cry;  
now in heaven exalted high:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!

5 When he comes, our glorious King,  
all his ransomed home to bring,  
then anew this song we'll sing:  
Hallelujah, what a Saviour!



## PRAYER

Gracious Lord, Your Name is love, in love receive our prayer. Look to the cross of Your beloved Son and view the preciousness of His atoning blood; Listen to His never-failing intercession, and speak to our hearts, 'your sins are forgiven, be of good cheer.'

Give to us more and more to prize the privilege of prayer, to find pardon in Christ, to converse with You; to know You in prayer as the path in which our feet tread, the latch upon the door of our lips, the marrow of our understanding, the strength of our will, the power of our affection and the sweetness of our memory.

May the matter of our prayer be always wise, humble, scriptural, Christ-like. Give Your people unwavering faith that our prayers are never in vain. You have given us the greatest gift, the person of Your Son, and in Him You will give us all we need.

(Prayer from 'A collection of puritan prayers')

## BENEDICTION

**And now may the grace of the Lord  
Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us  
all this day and forevermore, Amen.**