



ST MARY'S
ATTLEBOROUGH

An Hour at the Cross

A Service for Good Friday afternoon

7th April 2023

We remain seated as the clergy enter. The choir sing the Good Friday Reproaches to a Plainsong setting.

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
**while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us**

Saviour of the world, you have redeemed us by your
passion and cross.
Save us and help us, we humbly pray.

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 wicked men
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand to sing the first hymn:

O cross of Christ, immortal tree
on which our Saviour died,
the world is sheltered by your arms
that bore the Crucified.

From bitter death and barren wood
the tree of life is made;
its branches bear unfailing fruit
and leaves that never fade.

O faithful cross, you stand unmoved
while ages run their course:
foundation of the universe,
creation's binding force.

Give glory to the risen Christ
and to his cross give praise,
the sign of God's unfathomed love,
the hope of all our days.

Community of Stanbrook Abbey
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*Please sit for the Old Testament Reading:
Isaiah 52.13-end of 53*

*The choir sings the anthem:
Praise to thee, Lord Jesus (Schütz)*

*Praise to Thee, Lord Jesus, who in bitter pain,
On the cross did suffer, and for our sake wast slain.
Thou reignest with God the Father in Eternity,
Lead us, erring sinners, unto heav'n and Thee.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.*

*We remain seated for the reading of the Passion Gospel:
John 18.1 - 19.37*

After a period of silence we stand to sing:

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, 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 nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble;
were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble;
were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

American folk hymn
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*The Sermon
Please sit after the short prayer*

We stand to sing:

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure,
that he should give his only Son
to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss;
the Father turns his face away,
as wounds which mar the chosen One
bring many souls to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon his shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held him there,
until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life —
I know that 'it is finished.'

I will not boast in anything,

no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,
his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer;
but this I know with all my heart,
his wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend (b. 1963)

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Sit or kneel for the Prayers of Intercession

*The intercessions are made up of a series of prayers.
Each prayer uses this response after the bidding:*

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

*Each time the response is followed by a collect which ends
with everyone saying: **Amen.***

Standing at the foot of the cross,
let us pray with confidence
as our Saviour has 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.**

*The choir sings the anthem:
Wondrous cross (Wilby)*

*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.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the cross of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*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 a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Isaac Watts (1674–1748)*

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Saviour of the world, you have redeemed us by your passion and cross.

Save us and help us, we humbly pray.

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved humankind:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross,
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We stand to sing:

O sacred head, surrounded
by crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding head, so wounded,
so shamed and put to scorn!
Death's pallid hue comes o'er thee,
the glow of life decays;
yet angel-hosts adore thee,
and tremble as they gaze.

Thy comeliness and vigour
is withered up and gone,
and in thy wasted figure
I see death drawing on.
O agony and dying!
O love to sinners free!
Jesu, all grace supplying,
turn thou thy face on me.

In this thy bitter passion,
good Shepherd, think of me
with thy most sweet compassion,
unworthy though I be:
beneath thy cross abiding
for ever would I rest,
in thy dear love confiding,
and with thy presence blest.

*Paul Gerhardt (1607–1676)
from a 14th-century Latin hymn
translated by Henry Williams Baker (1821–1877)
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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

Silence is kept until 3 o'clock.

Then the ministers and people depart in silence.

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