

**GISBORNE PRESBYTERIAN PARISH
WELCOME TO ST ANDREW'S GISBORNE**

*Matawhero Church – Church Lane
St Andrew's Church and Community Centre:
176 Cobden Street, Gisborne*

10 April 2020

10.30am

Good Friday Service

A SERVICE OF DARKNESS AND STONES



Ministers: *All the people in Christ*

Minister: *Rev Jin Sook Kim*

Readers: *Jan Ewart, Peter Cowley, Alvin Hall
Catherine Macdonald*

Director of Music: *Catherine Macdonald*

**For this service, you will need;*

- *a candle to be lit*
- *a cross*
- *pebbles that you collected last Sunday*

(The candle and the cross are placed on the table before the service)

Now we'll have a moment of silence before we begin.
Please light the candle and place it before the cross.
As we listen to the choir singing, we light the candle.

The choir – In our darkness (Taizé)

Our darkness is never darkness
In your sight
The deepest night is clear
As the day light.

Our darkness is never darkness
In your sight
The deepest night is clear
As the day light.

Our darkness is never darkness
In your sight
The deepest night is clear
As the day light.

Gathering Words

All you who pass this way

Look and see, the darkness of sin

All you who pass this way

Look and see the despair of the world

All you who pass this way

Look and see, the suffering of our Savior.

All you who pass this way

Look and see, the love of Jesus Christ

Silence

Darkness of Betrayal

Reading: John 18:1-14 (NRSV) Jan Ewart

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

18 After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?”

⁵ They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” ⁹

This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.”¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus.¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

Jesus before the High Priest

¹² So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³ First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Prayer:

Forgiving Christ,

When the world condemns us when we feel that we are betrayed by close friends when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come alongside us in the darkness and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.

(Place her/his stone at the foot of the cross)

(Silence)

Darkness of Denial

Reading: John 18:15-18 – Peter Cowley

Peter Denies Jesus

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in.

¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?”

He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Prayer:

Compassionate Christ,

When we deny your love for us from the fear for our security and safety, when the weight of the world forces us to deny your eternal grace, come alongside us in the darkness and give us the grace to be compassionate to those who deny our presence.

(Place her/his stone at the foot of the cross)

(Silence)

Song: Broken the Body (© Shirley Erena Murray) vv 1-2

**Broken the body hanging on the Cross,
one with the criminal and thief,
scattered the circle of disciples now,
frozen in fear and grief.**

**Broken the body that is named your Church,
fractured and faltering in deed,
losing our nerve to follow where you go,
bloodless, we watch you bleed.**

Darkness of condemnation

Reading: John 18:19- 24 – Peter Cowley

The High Priest Questions Jesus

¹⁹ Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²² When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?”

²³ Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Prayer:

Forgiving Christ,

When the world condemns us when wrong is done to us when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come alongside us in the darkness and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.

(Place her/his stone at the foot of the cross)

(Silence)

Darkness of Separation

Reading: John 19:1-16 – Alvin Hall

¹⁹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” and striking him on the face. ⁴ 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.” ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

⁶ 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.” ⁷ 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.”

⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?”

But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ 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?” ¹¹ 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.” ¹² 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.”

¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Prayer: Alvin Hall

Lord Jesus Christ,
You know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God’s presence. Come alongside us in the darkness, and help us call out for God.

(Place her/his stone at the foot of the cross)

(Silence)

Song: Broken the Body (© Shirley Erena Murray) vv 3-4

**Where is the unity among your friends,
hope for a world in disarray?
Many our voices in the marketplace,
many the tunes we play.**

**Tables and altars cannot hold your grace,
yet there are places for us all,
breaking the bread, we feel our broken life,
crumbled, and weak, and small.**

(Silence)

Darkness of Suffering

Reading John 19:28-30 – Jin Sook Kim

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Prayer

Suffering Saviour,
In all our pain, in all our doubts, in all our longing, in all our sufferings,
you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness, and walk with us
through all our suffering.

(Silence)

(Place her/his stone at the foot of the cross)

Darkness of Death

Reading: John 19:31-42- Catherine Macdonald

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹ 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. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

The Burial of Jesus

³⁸ 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. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Prayer

Dearest Jesus,
Even in death, you are there. When we mourn, when we are afraid,
when we come to our end, you have been there, too. Come alongside us
in the darkness, and carry us through death to life.

(Place her/his stone at the foot of the cross)

Silence

Song: Were you there

**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?**

**Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?
Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?**

*...and then one by one we place a stone at the foot of the cross
and leave in silence*



