

**The Gisborne Presbyterian Parish welcomes  
you to this Good Friday Service  
at St Andrew's Church, Gisborne  
10 a.m. 29 March 2024**

Please be seated in the side chapel at the right front of  
the church



**The cross proclaims the love of God  
In your dark times of grieving, sadness, shadows, or deep loneliness,  
remember that the Christ who was crucified loves you, holds you  
and understands you**

Worship leader : Lynnor Cooke

*Welcome to this short service  
of quiet reflection and remembering.  
This service will flow without any announcement.  
We hear the story of the suffering and death of Jesus  
as written in the Gospel of Luke  
- with times of silence after each reading.  
Readings are from the Good News Bible.  
Please Note: No morning tea today*

### **Call to Worship**

**Pat Flockhart**

The palm branches have shrivelled on the side of the road.

All that lies within the shadows and the emptiness

Waits to be entered, in its pain and its suffering,

But one thing is never in doubt:

**The Christ goes on in faithfulness.**

God is with us, even in the depths of our despair.

**We are never, ever, left alone.**

Never doubt the meaning of Lent. It happened a long time ago, but it happened. Jesus walked on this earth. He practiced a ministry of radical inclusivity, drawing to himself all the despised and rejected members of society. He lived what he taught: a life of justice and love, of profound compassion for all people. He lived a life acceptable to you, O God. His death terrifies us, because it reveals how committed the world is to its own way, and the price the world exacts from those whose commitment is to you.

*(Silent time.)*

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of all the children in the world who suffer in body, in mind or in spirit.

*(A candle is extinguished.)*

A man who cried upon a cross at Calvary;

AA 57 v2

for him who died an empty tomb, a mystery;

O risen Christ, all pain and loss transcending.

What we contemplate today is beyond words, beyond understanding. May the Holy Spirit intercede for us and give voice to what, for us, is inexpressible. Amen

**Silence ...**

**Reading:** *From heaven you came*, CH4 374

**Lynnor Cooke**

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
he calls us now to follow him,  
to bring our lives as a daily offering  
of worship to the Servant King.*

From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
entered our world, your glory veiled;  
not to be served but to serve,  
and give your life that we might live.

There in the garden of tears,  
my heavy load he chose to bear;  
his heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours' he said.

Come see his hands and his feet,  
the scars that speak of sacrifice,  
hands that flung stars into space  
to cruel nails surrendered.

So let us learn how to serve,  
and in our lives enthrone him;  
each other's needs to prefer,  
for it is Christ we're serving.

**Reader 1:** Luke 22: 47-53

**Raewyn Hannah**

***Betrayal and Arrest***

<sup>47</sup> Jesus was still speaking when a crowd arrived, led by Judas, one of the twelve disciples. He came up to Jesus to kiss him. <sup>48</sup> But Jesus said, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you betray the Son of Man?"

<sup>49</sup> When the disciples who were with Jesus saw what was going to happen, they asked, "Shall we use our swords, Lord?" <sup>50</sup> And one of them struck the High Priest's slave and cut off his right ear.

<sup>51</sup> But Jesus said, "Enough of this!" He touched the man's ear and healed him.

<sup>52</sup> Then Jesus said to the chief priests and the officers of the Temple guard and the elders who had come there to get him, “Did you have to come with swords and clubs, as though I were an outlaw? <sup>53</sup> I was with you in the Temple every day, and you did not try to arrest me. But this is your hour to act, when the power of darkness rules.”

### ***Peter’s Denial***

Luke 22: 54-62

<sup>54</sup> They arrested Jesus and took him away into the house of the High Priest; and Peter followed at a distance. <sup>55</sup> A fire had been lit in the centre of the courtyard, and Peter joined those who were sitting around it. <sup>56</sup> When one of the servant women saw him sitting there at the fire, she looked straight at him and said, “This man too was with Jesus!”

<sup>57</sup> But Peter denied it, “Woman, I don’t even know him!”

<sup>58</sup> After a little while a man noticed Peter and said, “You are one of them, too!”

But Peter answered, “Man, I am not!”

<sup>59</sup> And about an hour later another man insisted strongly, “There isn’t any doubt that this man was with Jesus, because he also is a Galilean!”

<sup>60</sup> But Peter answered, “Man, I don’t know what you are talking about!”

At once, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. <sup>61</sup> The Lord turned around and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered that the Lord had said to him, “Before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me.” <sup>62</sup> Peter went out and wept bitterly.

**Silence ...**

**Reader 2:** Luke 22: 63-71

**Chrissie Parker**

### ***Mocking, Insults and Questions***

#### **Jesus Is Mocked and Beaten**

<sup>63</sup> The men who were guarding Jesus made fun of him and beat him. <sup>64</sup> They blindfolded him and asked him, “Who hit you?

Guess!” <sup>65</sup> And they said many other insulting things to him.

## Jesus before the Council

<sup>66</sup> When day came, the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law met together, and Jesus was brought before the Council. <sup>67</sup> “Tell us,” they said, “are you the Messiah?”

He answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me; <sup>68</sup> and if I ask you a question, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right side of Almighty God.”

<sup>70</sup> They all said, “Are you, then, the Son of God?”

He answered them, “You say that I am.”

<sup>71</sup> And they said, “We don't need any witnesses! We ourselves have heard what he said!”

## Silence ...

**Reading:** O sacred head sore wounded

CH4 382 v.1 and 2

O Sacred Head! sore wounded,  
with grief and shame bowed down!  
O Kingly Head, surrounded  
with thorns, thine only crown!  
How pale art thou with anguish,  
with sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that face now languish,  
which once was bright as morn!

O Lord of life and glory,  
what bliss till now was thine!  
I read the wondrous story;  
I joy to call thee mine.  
Thy grief and bitter Passion  
were all for sinners' gain;  
mine, mine was the transgression,  
but thine the deadly pain.



## Silence ...

***The Trial***

**23** The whole group rose up and took Jesus before Pilate, <sup>2</sup> where they began to accuse him: “We caught this man misleading our people, telling them not to pay taxes to the Emperor and claiming that he himself is the Messiah, a king.”

<sup>3</sup> Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“So you say,” answered Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no reason to condemn this man.”

<sup>5</sup> But they insisted even more strongly, “With his teaching he is starting a riot among the people all through Judea. He began in Galilee and now has come here.”

**Jesus before Herod**

<sup>6</sup> When Pilate heard this, he asked, “Is this man a Galilean?” <sup>7</sup> When he learned that Jesus was from the region ruled by Herod, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. <sup>8</sup> Herod was very pleased when he saw Jesus, because he had heard about him and had been wanting to see him for a long time. He was hoping to see Jesus perform some miracle. <sup>9</sup> So Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus made no answer. <sup>10</sup> The chief priests and the teachers of the Law stepped forward and made strong accusations against Jesus. <sup>11</sup> Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus and treated him with contempt; then they put a fine robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> On that very day Herod and Pilate became friends; before this they had been enemies.

**Silence ...**

***Jesus is sentenced to death***

<sup>13</sup> Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought this man to me and said that he was misleading the people. Now, I have examined him here in your presence, and I have not found him guilty of any of the crimes you accuse him of. <sup>15</sup> Nor did Herod find him guilty, for he sent him back to

us. There is nothing this man has done to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> So I will have him whipped and let him go.” <sup>17</sup> [a]

<sup>18</sup> The whole crowd cried out, “Kill him! Set Barabbas free for us!” (<sup>19</sup> Barabbas had been put in prison for a riot that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

<sup>20</sup> Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, so he appealed to the crowd again. <sup>21</sup> But they shouted back, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

<sup>22</sup> Pilate said to them the third time, “But what crime has he committed? I cannot find anything he has done to deserve death! I will have him whipped and set him free.”

<sup>23</sup> But they kept on shouting at the top of their voices that Jesus should be crucified, and finally their shouting succeeded. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate passed the sentence on Jesus that they were asking for. <sup>25</sup> He set free the man they wanted, the one who had been put in prison for riot and murder, and he handed Jesus over for them to do as they wished.

**Silence ...**

**Reader 5:** Luke 23: 26 – 27, 32 – 43

**Bob Bos**

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*

<sup>26</sup> The soldiers led Jesus away, and as they were going, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon who was coming into the city from the country. They seized him, put the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> A large crowd of people followed him; among them were some women who were weeping and wailing for him.

<sup>32</sup> Two other men, both of them criminals, were also led out to be put to death with Jesus. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called “The Skull,” they crucified Jesus there, and the two criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Forgive them, Father! They don't know what they are doing.” [a]

They divided his clothes among themselves by throwing dice. <sup>35</sup> The people stood there watching while the Jewish leaders made fun of him: “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah whom God has chosen!”

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also made fun of him: they came up to him and offered him cheap wine, <sup>37</sup> and said, “Save yourself if you are the king of the Jews!”

<sup>38</sup> Above him were written these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him: “Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup> The other one, however, rebuked him, saying, “Don't you fear God? You received the same sentence he did. <sup>41</sup> Ours, however, is only right, because we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong.” <sup>42</sup> And he said to Jesus, “Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus said to him, “I promise you that today you will be in Paradise with me.”

**Silence ...**

**Reader 6:**

Luke 23: 50 – 56

**Chrissie Parker**

***Burial***

<sup>50-51</sup> There was a man named Joseph from Arimathea, a town in Judea. He was a good and honorable man, who was waiting for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Although he was a member of the Council, he had not agreed with their decision and action. <sup>52</sup> He went into the presence of Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup> Then he took the body down, wrapped it in a linen sheet, and placed it in a tomb which had been dug out of solid rock and which had never been used. <sup>54</sup> It was Friday, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

<sup>55</sup> The women who had followed Jesus from Galilee went with Joseph and saw the tomb and how Jesus' body was placed in it. <sup>56</sup> Then they went back home and prepared the spices and perfumes for the body. On the Sabbath they rested, as the Law commanded.

**Silence ...**



## **Litany for Good Friday:**

**Lynnor Cooke**

“Christ of the cross,  
**Now you leave the work to us.”**

It is finished, Lord.  
Your voice is now silent,  
The voice which brought healing and hope,  
Called unlikely fishermen  
And a tax collector  
To follow you,  
Challenged people to turn their lives in a new direction.

Christ of the cross,  
**Now you leave the work to us.”**

**Silence ...**

It is finished, Lord.  
Your hands are now still,  
The hands which cooled the fever,  
Touched the leper,  
Broke the bread and shared it,  
And, reaching out to the whole world,  
Were nailed to the cross,  
‘the most accurate picture of God the world has ever seen’.

Christ of the cross,  
**Now you leave the work to us.”**

**Silence ...**

As we enter the darkness of tonight and tomorrow,  
Help us to wait trustingly,  
Expectantly,  
Ready to greet you,  
And to be surprised by you,  
Our risen Lord,  
On Easter morning.

**Then, in the power of your resurrection,  
Send us on our way  
To do the work you have left us.  
Amen.**

**Blessing:** The God who knows you better  
than you know yourself, is always with you,  
in your times of joy and laughter  
and in times of sorrow, loneliness and fear.  
You are never alone.  
Go now in God's love, peace and strength.  
**Amen**

**Thank you to the readers and helpers in today's service.**

**Worship Leader:** *Lynnor Cooke*   **Readers** In order of appearance: *Pat  
Flockhart, Lynnor Cooke, Raewyn Hannah, Chrissie Parker, Jennifer  
McDonald, Bob Bos*

## **The Meaning of Easter**

That every hill has a cross on it?

That every garden is a tomb?

That every dawn is a rising?

That no word spoken is ever truly lost?

That every life ends and goes on?

That even corroded hopes can be polished fine again?

That life can find a way even through great horror?

That even the feeblest song can have new verses written?

That poems said in the day can be remembered in the night?

That no damage can finally undo everything?

That bonds forged in hopefulness are not so easily broken?

That stories each have their own life and power?

That every end is also a beginning?

That love always finds a way?

That living and dying are dying and living?

That life goes on past even the darkest day?

That death kills nothing in the end?

c. Paul Turley 2012

**Please join us on Easter Sunday for our  
10.00 am Communion Service & Floral  
Transforming of the Cross**

**Note to readers:**

Please wait for previous reader to sit before coming forward.

Please acknowledge the silence by remaining standing at the lectern after your reading for the count of 10 seconds.  
Then sit.