

# Worship at Home

Good Friday: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

Erica Jordan – South Devon Circuit



Today, on this most holy and difficult of days, we pause to look again at the cross... consider the cost... consider what it means...; and to give thanks to Christ who went to the cross out of his love for us.

We are here, in this still moment,  
Our feet want us to flee,  
Yet here we are and here we stay,  
For where else would we be?

## We pray together...

Father God, this day may we see, hear and feel the extent of your love stretched out on the cruel cross. Help us recognise, in part, what it cost and what it means for us as we pause, pray and sing in solemn wonder at Your amazing grace.

## STF 284: There is a green hill far away

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kYXqiqDanBs>

There is a green hill far away,  
outside a city wall, where the dear Lord was crucified,  
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell,  
What pains he had to bear, but we believe it was for  
us he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven.  
he died to make us good, that we might go at last to  
heaven, saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin; he only could unlock the gate  
of heaven, and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,  
And we must love him too, and trust in his redeeming  
blood, and try his works to do.

*Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-95)*

## We pray together...

Lord Jesus,  
Today we pause to remember your sacrificial love.

**Love that shone light** into the darkness  
and brought life from emptiness.

**Love that revealed hope** out of devastation  
and spoke truth to power.

**Love, that offered freedom** rather than imprisonment  
and brought us forgiveness instead of punishment.

We praise you that, because of your self-emptying love,  
we can walk in the light of your life, hope, truth,  
freedom and forgiveness, this day and every day.

Amen.

## Prayer of Confession

Loving Lord,  
we bow our heads in shame as we think of things we  
should have done, but didn't bother,  
and we remember the things we should not have done  
but went ahead and did them anyway.

Yet still, you, our Lord and our God, can see something  
in us that is worthwhile and worth everything. On this  
day we remember that you gave everything to save us  
from ourselves. Amen

## Reading: Matthew 27: 1-55

*Summary: This reading starts early in the morning, with all the chief priests and the elders of the people making plans to have Jesus executed. Events move on quickly, and by nine in the morning Jesus has been tried, flogged, mocked and taken outside the city to be crucified.*

*From noon until three in the afternoon darkness comes over all the land. Then Jesus cries out, asking his Father why he has forsaken him. The people watch.*

*He cries out a second time and gives up his spirit. At this moment the curtain of the temple is torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shakes, the rocks split and the tombs break open. When those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and all that happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed: "Surely he was the Son of God!"*

## Reflection

**I don't want to be here at the foot of the cross.**

Instead, I want to be near Jesus  
as he takes children into his arms.  
I want to listen to His voice on the mountain  
with the clear blue sky and the green grass,  
all beautiful and good around me.  
I want to watch His compassion for the hungry,  
the disabled and the mentally troubled.  
I want to celebrate as he releases those  
imprisoned by their mistakes.  
I want to feel the comfort of hearing His stories  
of those who are lost and found.

**I don't want to be here at the foot of His cross ...**

but Jesus is here. He was pinned to this cross  
by humans who didn't know Him.  
They did not understand, and He knew that.  
He was betrayed by his close friend  
who was paid by the people of the temple.  
The temple rules were disregarded,  
manipulated by the same people who had decided  
Jesus should die for breaking the rules.  
In that instant the rule book was broken, and the  
temple would crumble, as the first cracks in its false  
authority appeared, just as Jesus had predicted.

**I don't want to be here at the foot of His cross...**

but today Jesus' gentle hands can't reach out to me,  
so I must choose to come to him, where He is.  
With my head bowed, knowing I am unworthy,  
regardless of my many mistakes  
and the times I have forsaken Him.  
Today, somehow, I feel compelled  
to reach out to Jesus in His suffering.  
I remember my ungrateful attitude, my greed  
and my failures. I look down, see His feet  
and remember how Mary washed them  
with tears and expensive perfume  
and wiped them with her hair.

**I find myself here at the foot of the cross.**

My eyes gaze up at His body, so strong,  
yet seemingly so helpless to this inevitability.  
He has walked knowingly, and so purposefully  
towards all that He knew must happen.  
And the crowds had followed, but not today.  
I see his hands stretched out,  
pinned to the cross, unable to hold me,  
yet somehow always holding me,  
drawing me nearer,  
and asking me to understand this mystery.

**As I dare to look up, I see His bleeding head,**

the thorns of the cruel crown  
reminding me of the mockery  
and the hurtful rejection he has endured.  
I yearn to reach up and remove it,  
yet knowing this would cause more pain –  
I could not. It has to remain.  
He is my King!

My painful times have never been this hard.  
And now Jesus will always be alongside me  
in His understanding.

**Finally, I reach His eyes**

and see Jesus in his last moments, glancing out  
and caring for His mother, His friend, and yes, me!  
Here I find the forgiveness,  
not deserved, not earned, but given,  
and Jesus has paid the price.

Finally, I realise I am not a captive of the cross  
and the host of horrors it portrays.  
I am not bound by my sin. I am forgiven.  
The cross does not hold me,  
because it does not hold Jesus.

The cross is the key to freedom, and on Easter Day we  
can celebrate that with so much more joy because we  
crept nearer: learning to see and understand the cost a  
little more each year.

The four gospel writers do not spare us any details of  
this time because so much love spills from these last  
moments. There is no escape, no easy way out.

**So today,  
I will stand at the foot of the cross.  
And on Sunday we will rejoice!**

**STF 287: When I survey the wondrous cross**

<https://youtu.be/2MF9tVfTMXs>

**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 death 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 an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

**We pray together...**

Lord Jesus, as we look at the world,  
we see so much brokenness and suffering  
We are hurting other people...  
We are hurting the world ...  
We are lying to ourselves and to others  
but lies only add to the hurt...  
We might think that money will buy a solution  
but this only makes more people poor...  
We are broken, helpless but not hopeless  
**Lord, broken on the cross, we come to You.  
Only You can make us new.**

Loving Lord Jesus, let us see through your eyes;  
see how to heal the brokenness, and  
recognise how to give ourselves to others  
and not count the cost.  
Let us see where seeds of hope are scattered and  
help us to nurture them with patience and kindness.  
Let us see where we can make a difference  
and give generously to help.  
**Lord, broken on the cross, we come to You.  
Only You can make us new.**

Gentle Jesus, help us see Your goodness everywhere;  
help us see it in the whole world, where people try to  
understand people in different circumstances,  
where rigid rules are replaced by empathy  
and selfishness has no place.  
Help us to see where broken hearts, broken hopes,  
broken dreams and broken relationships  
are all made new through the sacrifice  
and brokenness of your body on the cross.  
**Lord, broken on the cross, we come to You.  
Only You can make us new. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**STF 277: My song is love unknown**

**My song is love unknown,  
my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown,  
that they might lovely be.  
O who am I, that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?**

**He came from His blest throne,  
salvation to bestow;  
but men made strange, and none  
the longed-for Christ would know.  
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
who at my need His life did spend!**

**Here might I stay and sing,  
no story so divine:  
never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like Thine!  
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.**

*Samuel Crossman (1624-84)*

**Blessing**

*(from Radiance of Glory by David Adam)*

May you find in Christ crucified  
A strength in times of darkness  
A support in times of weakness  
And the assurance that life is eternal. **Amen**

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