



Note

To contact the church please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person; we are all working remotely.

Welcome to this Good Friday service

Song "How deep the Father's love for us" sung by Chris Tomlin.
Written by Stuart Townend

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 sons 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.

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father, it is hard for us to understand why you sent your Son Jesus to die on the cross. Why did he have to pay for all the wrong we have done when he had never done anything but good? It must have been the hardest thing – to watch your only son being put to death, knowing that you had the power to stop it – but knowing that he must go through it if you were to overcome death and sin. Father, we are amazed by your love, that allowed this to happen for our sakes, so that we could be forgiven and receive your new life. Please help us to believe and trust in Jesus, so that by his death, we might have life. **Amen.**

Rachel McCarthy reads all three of our bible passages today.

First Reading: Matthew 27.27-38

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers 'round him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. 'Hail, king of the Jews!' they said. 30 They spat on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. 32 As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. 33 They came to a place called Golgotha (which means 'the place of the skull'). 34 There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. 35 When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. 36 And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. 37 Above his head they placed the written charge against him:

*This is Jesus
king of the Jews*

38 Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Talk Part 1



Confessional Response

Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess we have failed you, as did your first disciples.
We ask for your mercy and your help.

When we take our ease
rather than watch with you:
Lord, forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

When we bestow a kiss of peace
yet nurse enmity in our hearts:
Lord, forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

When we strike at those who hurt us
rather than stretch out our hands to bless:
Lord, forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

When we deny that we know you
for fear of the world and its scorn:
Lord, forgive us.
Christ have mercy.

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring you his pardon and peace, now and forever.
Amen.

Second Reading: Matthew 27.39-44

39 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!' 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 42 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, "I am the Son of God."' 44 In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Talk Part 2



Sung Response – “Remembrance” by Hillsong Worship
... sing along or listen and reflect

I take the bread of life
Broken for all my sin
Your body crucified
To make me whole again

I will recall the cup
Poured out in sacrifice
To trade this sinner's end
For Your new covenant

Hallelujah
I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah
Your promise I won't forget

I'll walk salvation's road
With fear and trembling
Your way borne as my own
As Christ is formed in me

Hallelujah
I'll live my life in remembrance
Hallelujah
Your promise I won't forget

If ever I should lose my way
If ever I deny Your grace
Remind me of the price You paid
Hallelujah
I'll live in remembrance

You've been so, so good to me
You've been so, so good to me
Oh to think where I would be
If not for You
If not for You
(X3)

As far as heights reach from the depths
As far as east is from the west
So far Your grace has carried me
Until I see You face to face
Until at last I've won my race
Remind me You're not finished yet
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
I'll live in remembrance

Third Reading: Matthew 27.45-56

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, '*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*' (which means 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'). 47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, 'He's calling Elijah.' 48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, 'Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him.' 50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split 52 and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. 53 They came out of the tombs after Jesus' resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people. 54 When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, 'Surely he was the Son of God!'

55 Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. 56 Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Talk Part 3



Affirmation of faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore, God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayers prepared and read by Pat Hegarty

Response today:

In you O Lord ~ **Do we put our trust**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Final Song "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)" by Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone
I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, Amazing grace
(x2)

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, Who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Closing prayer & blessing

Lord, you know the dusty road, the fickle crowd, the pushing and pulling of everyday life. Be beside us as we journey on.

Lord, you know the pain and loneliness, the insults and betrayal of those in power. Be near to those who are hurting.

Lord, you know the power of love over hate, of hope over despair, of light over dark. Fill our lives as we go from this place to be witnesses to your truth in the world.

Amen.

Thank you for joining us today.

