

Good Friday

Today is a solemn day in our Christian life, and one when we may choose to give up something - some do not turn on the TV others do not eat meat. What might you give up for one day as you remember the gift of forgiveness and life given through the death of our Lord?

Traditionally on Good Friday there is a Stations of the Cross Service. A series of prayers, reading and responsive prayer remembering the whole of the passion reading. I wondered if you may like to replicate this at home. The reading set for today is **John 18.1-19.42**. Get your bible and decide how you could divide the reading into the number of rooms in your home - then perhaps on the hour, or between 12 and 3pm the time of Jesus death, go to a room, read the Collect and a portion of the gospel and pray these responses:

**Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Collect and Reading

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 sinners 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.

Gospel John 18.1-19.42

Please use your own bible.

Reflection used at any point in your worship

Robert Frost wrote in *Before Mending a Wall*:

*“Before I built a wall I’d ask to know
What I was walling in and walling out,
And to whom I was like to give offense.
Something there is that doesn’t love a wall,
That wants it down.”*

Jesus’ life, death and resurrection were all about pulling down walls, those we build and those that close in around us built by others. The walls of shame and rejection tumble, the walls of exclusion due to health, wealth and faith, all tumble down. The wall between life and death also was destroyed that we can know and have confidence in Jesus’ promises to be with us in John 14.

What walls have you built - not for the proper isolation or social distancing but walls of anger or walls of not trusting or walls of not valuing yourself, or indeed the saddest of all, the walls that try to keep God, faith enclosed to fit our plans.

Jesus does not see walls, he sees people. He sees the needs of the whole person, emotional, physical and spiritual. Let’s spend time during this isolation letting go of guarding our walls, and letting God in, give God a visa for your life!

Closing Prayer

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.