

**WESLEY UNITING CHURCH  
GEELONG  
GOOD FRIDAY 2024: A SERVICE OF SHADOW AND STONES**



**Rev Tupe Ioelu**

***We acknowledge the Traditional owners of the land on which Wesley is built. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.***

## **GATHERING**

All you who pass this way

***Look and see, the shadow of despair***

All you who pass this way

***Look and see the weight 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 sorrow of Jesus Christ***

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

## **SONG TIS 350**

There is a green hill far away

1

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

2

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.

3

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

4

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.

TIS 350

There is a green hill far away,  
 Words in the Public Domain

Reading:

### **Shadow of Condemnation**

#### **Jesus Sentenced to Death**

Luke 23: 13-25

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him." But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

#### **The Crucifixion of Jesus**

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore,

and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus\* there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

**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 along side us in the darkness, and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.

**(Silence)**

*"Will you lay down your life for me?  
Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows,  
you will have denied me three times."* John 13:38

Lord we have denied you,  
Each time we refused to see you in the faces of the hungry and the homeless.

**May the old in us pass away and all things become new.**

Lord we have betrayed you,  
Each time we have kept our distance  
from the anguish of the oppressed and the persecuted.

**May the old in us pass away and all things become new.**

Lord we have mocked you,  
Each time we have pretended we do not know how radically you call us to live.

**May the old in us pass away and all things become new.**

Lord we are lost and have strayed,  
Welcome us into your forgiving arms and make us new.

**May the old in us pass away and all things become new.**

All merciful One, God of infinite love and compassion, though we have strayed, you have never abandoned us. We come confessing our sins and reaching out for the healing power of your forgiveness. Through Christ our

Lord, give us renewed and truthful hearts that will follow you in all of our ways. **Amen**

**SONG TIS 738:** My Jesus, my Saviour

My Jesus, my Saviour  
Lord, there is none like you  
all of my days, I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love.  
My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength,  
let every breath, all that I am,  
never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth  
let us sing power and majesty,  
praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.  
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,  
for ever I'll love you, for ever I'll stand,  
nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

TIS 738 (Shout to the Lord)  
My Jesus, my Saviour  
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**Shadow of Separation**

Reading: Luke 23:35-43

And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah<sup>\*</sup> of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him,<sup>\*</sup> 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding<sup>\*</sup> him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah?' Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of

condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into \* your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

**Prayer:**

Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world that is not at peace, people who are not whole. You reached out to the thief, you welcomed him to God's side. Come alongside us in the darkness, and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken.

**(Silence)**

**SONG TIS 730: Jesus, Remember Me**

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

TIS 730

Jesus remember me

From the Taizé Community (1978)

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**Shadow of Sorrow**

Reading: John 19:25-27

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

**Prayer:**

Loving Jesus, we carry the weight of the people we love, concern for their sorrows and suffering. Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do. Come alongside us in the darkness, and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands.

**(Silence)**

**SONG TIS 342:** When I survey the wondrous cross.

1.

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.

2.

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.

3.

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?

4.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small:  
love so amazing, so divine  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

TIS 342 & AHB 258

When I survey the wondrous cross

Words in Public Domain

## **Shadow of Despair**

Reading: Mark 5:33-34

But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'

### **Prayer:**

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.

### **(Silence)**

**SONG:** You raise me up (Guitar)

When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be  
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence  
Until You come and sit awhile with me.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders  
You raise me up to more than I can be.

You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders  
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You raise me up, so I can stand on mountains  
You raise me up, to walk on stormy seas  
I am strong, when I am on your shoulders



You raise me up to more than I can be.

You raise me up to more than I can be.

### **Shadow of Suffering**

Reading: John 19:28-30

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

### **Prayer:**

Suffering Savior, in all our thirst, in all our sickness, in all our longing, in all our pain, you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness, and walk with us through all our suffering.

### **(Silence)**

**SONG:** I surrender all

1.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
All to Him I freely give;  
I will ever love and trust Him,  
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all;  
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,  
I surrender all

2.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;  
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,  
Truly know that Thou art mine. [Refrain]

3.

All to Jesus I surrender,  
Lord, I give myself to Thee;

Fill me with Thy love and power,  
Let Thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain

All to Jesus I surrender

Author: Judson W. Van De Venter (1896)

Tune: SURRENDER (Weeden)

## **Shadow of Death**

Reading: Luke 23:44-49

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land\* until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed;\* and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.' Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, 'Certainly this man was innocent.\*' And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

### **Prayer:**

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

### **(Silence)**

**SONG:** How deep the father's love for us

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 pow'r, 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.

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***We leave in silence.***

