

AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Friday 29th March 2024 Good Friday 10.30am A SERVICE OF REFLECTION

led by The Revd Ian Green and Sara Autton

Organist: Janet Reid

Opening Responses: based on a prayer by Desmond Tutu

Leader: Today, around the cross, we gather to remember:

All: God's love shown to us in Jesus.

Leader: We come to give thanks that:

All: Goodness is stronger than evil.

Love is stronger than hate.

Light is stronger than darkness.

And life is stronger than death.

Leader: The Lord be with you All: And also with you

Hymn 227: Were you there

Opening Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Psalm 22.1-5, 16-18 (Church Bible page 462 OT) Read by Anne Marshall

Reflection: Choices followed by Silent prayer

Hymn: Lord Jesus, for my sake you came Tune R&S 416 Tallis's Canon

I. Lord Jesus, for my sake you came, the Son of Man, and God most high; you leave behind your Father's home to live and serve, to love and die.

- 2. Your eyes seek out our world's distress through insult, grief and agony; they meet our tears with tenderness yet blaze upon our blasphemy.
- 3. Are these the robes that make men proud, is this the crown that you must wear? Your face is set, your head is bowed, and silently you persevere.
- 4. You never grasped at selfish gain, and yet your hands are marked with blood; transfixed by nails, they cling in pain to sorrow on a cross of wood.
- 5. Lord Jesus, come to me anew; your hands, your eyes, your thoughts be mine, until I learn to love like you and live on earth the life divine. Michael Perry CCL 257120

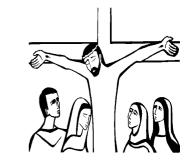
Reading: John 19.16b-30 (Church Bible page 98 NT) Read by Anne Marshall

Reflection: Crowns followed by Silent Prayer

Hymn: A crown of piercing thorns Tune R&S 455 St Michael

I. A crown of piercing thorns
they forced upon your head:
to claim and change my selfish mind
your precious blood was shed.

- 2. The flesh upon your back their brutal scourging tore: how can I shirk another's load since you my burden bore?
- 3. Lord, how can I forget the nail-prints on your hands? Make me a servant of your grace, fulfilling love's demands.



- 4. Your feet they firmly held as nails were hammered through: My feet are free but how can I not choose to follow you?
- 5. The spear which broke your side made blood and water flow; come, pierce my heart, that through my life your suff'ring love may show.
- 6. You took my place in death,your blood was freely poured:Then let my life be spent for you,my Saviour and my Lord! Martin E.Leckebusch CCL 257120

Reflection: Disappointments followed by Silent Prayer

Hymn 223: There is a green hill

Intercessions

Affirmation of Faith

Minister: Let us stand and affirm our faith

and our confidence in the unconditional love of God.

All: We believe in a God who always surprises us,

who creates life from death, who brings good out of evil,

who leads us from despair to hope.

We believe in a God who is faithful to us, who shows mercy when we run away, who shows patience when we deny the truth, who gives reconciling love when we betray.

We believe in a God who lived and died as one of us to take the fear out of living and dying, to open our eyes to death, within us and around us, and open our hearts to new ways of living.

We believe in a God who forgives us, who sets us free from past grief and failure and calls us forth into a new day.

Hymn 220: O sacred head sore wounded

Dismissal and Blessing with sung Amen