



St James's  
PICCADILLY

# Good Friday The Three Hours

Friday 18th April 2025  
12noon-3pm

With a congregation in the church  
and live on YouTube



This day, marked by so much that is shocking and inhumane, stands as a witness to all that God has seen and experienced through the person of Jesus Christ. We know that God, and what we think of God, has come closer in the pain and sorrow of today, in the suffering of the human body and mind. We know, too, that this means that our suffering cannot be seen in isolation or separate from God. God sees us in the daylight and in the dark; God can carry our human living and dying. It is not enough to say that Jesus Christ died for us. We must also see that his death, unwarranted yet permitted, premediated yet ill-explained, visible yet holding an imperceptible mystery, reveals to us more of who we are through each of the characters of this tragic day. In the unfolding tragedy, we see life and death. When all seemed as if it had ended, when all seemed lost, we see the beginning of the story.

We keep three hours at the foot of the cross, with readings, reflections, music and silence. We remember and we do not turn away. May these three hours, give us the room to sit with what is happening, what has happened, and what is yet to come.

*Director of Music: Michael Haslam*

*Violist: Dominic Stokes*

*Soloist: Talia Lieberman*

## **12.00 THE FIRST HOUR**

### **MUSIC - Voice and Viola**

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child  
[African American Spiritual]

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

### **HYMN**

[Words: Paul Gerhardt (1607-76); Tune: Passion Chorale,  
Bach. Tr. Robert Bridges]

**O sacred head, sore wounded,  
defiled and put to scorn;  
O kingly head, surrounded  
with mocking crown of thorn:  
what sorrow mars thy grandeur?  
Can death thy bloom deflower?  
O countenance whose splendour  
the hosts of heaven adore.**

**In thy most bitter passion  
my heart to share doth cry,  
with thee for my salvation  
upon the cross to die.  
Ah, keep my heart thus movèd  
to stand thy cross beneath,  
to mourn thee, well-beloved,  
yet thank thee for thy death.**

**My days are few, O fail not,  
with thine immortal power,  
to hold me that I quail not  
in death's most fearful hour:  
that I may fight befriended,  
and see in my last strife  
to me thine arms extended  
upon the cross of life.**

## **THE FIRST READING**

John 18.1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, 'I am he', they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus answered, 'I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.' This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, 'I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.' Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?'

## **ADDRESS**

The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine

*Silence.*

## **MUSIC - Meditation (viola)**

### **12.30pm THE SECOND READING**

John 18.12-27

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.' When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face,

saying, 'Is that how you answer the high priest?' Jesus answered, 'If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?' Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.' One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?' Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

## **ADDRESS**

The Revd Daniel Norris

## **MUSIC - Meditation (viola)**

*Silence.*

## **1.00pm THE SECOND HOUR**

### **MUSIC - Voice, viola and piano**

The Road Home (words: Michael Dennis Browns; music from Southern Harmony 1935, adapted by Stephen Paulus)

Tell me, where is the road  
I can call my own,  
That I left, that I lost,  
So long ago?  
All these years I have wandered,  
Oh, when will I know  
There's a way, there's a road  
That will lead me home?

After wind, after rain,  
When the dark is done.  
As I wake from a dream  
In the gold of day,  
Through the air there's a calling  
From far away,  
There's a voice I can hear  
That will lead me home.

Rise up, follow me,  
Come away, is the call,  
With the love in your heart  
As the only song;  
There is no such beauty  
As where you belong:  
Rise up, follow me,  
I will lead you home.

### **THE THIRD READING**

John 18.28-40

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

## **ADDRESS**

The Revd Dr Mariama Ifode-Blease

## **MUSIC - Meditation (viola)**

*Silence.*

## **1.30pm THE FOURTH READING**

John 19.1-16

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face.



Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

## **ADDRESS**

The Revd Dr Ivan Khovacs

## **MUSIC - Meditation (viola)**

*Silence.*

## **2.00pm THE THIRD HOUR**

### **HYMN**

[Tune: Were You There, African American Spiritual]

*Solo:*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**Were you there when they nail'd him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they nail'd him to the tree?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

## THE FIFTH READING

John 19.17-37

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says,

'They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.'

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.

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.

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again, another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

## **ADDRESS**

The Revd Lucy Winkett

## **MUSIC - Meditation (viola)**

*Silence.*

## **HYMN**

[Tune: Rockingham; Words: Isaac Watts]

**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?**

**His dying crimson like a robe,  
spreads o'er his body on the Tree;  
then am I dead to all the globe,  
and all the globe is dead to me.**

**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.**

*Silence.*

## **2.35pm THE SIXTH READING**

John 19.38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews,

asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Christ, forsaken by all, be with the lonely and sad

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, mocked and scorned, support the outcast and rejected

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, who suffered great pain, be a strength to the weak

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, who died for our sins, forgive the penitent

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, who shares our grief, comfort the sorrowing

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, who thirsted on the Cross, bring relief to the hungry

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, who died for us all, grant us your salvation

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ crucified, died and buried, give us hope

**Lord, have mercy**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

#### **THE COLLECT FOR GOOD FRIDAY**

Almighty God,  
look with mercy on this your family  
for which Christ Jesus  
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.**

*Silence.*

*After the clock strikes 3.00pm, all depart in silence.*

## Vespers and All Night Vigil

Holy Saturday 19th April from 7.30pm

Join us at 7.30pm for a meditative service (based on the ancient liturgy of Vespers) which will include a chance to offer a poem, some thoughts, a reading, to share with others. Please bring something to read or share if you would like to.



A bring-and-share meal follows. We will also prepare bread together which will be baked overnight to use for the Dawn Eucharist.

At 10pm the ancient night prayer of Compline is said together. The doors are locked at 10.30pm for the all-night vigil. If you would like to take part, please bring a sleeping bag and sign up in advance by emailing David in the Parish office at [administrator@sjp.org.uk](mailto:administrator@sjp.org.uk)

## Hospitality on Holy Saturday after Vespers and on Easter Day after the Dawn Eucharist

Following the 7.30pm Vespers service on Saturday we have a wonderful bring and share meal, down in the Church Hall and in church, for anyone who would like to join.

Please bring yourself and any food you like - to be shared at a long table for everyone to eat and chat together. If you are new to this, please just come along - everyone is welcome whether you can bring food or not. Each year there's always enough and what matters is at this time of year we come together to share in hospitality, especially when so much in our lives might be feeling overwhelming.



**Please bring food downstairs to the Church Hall at 7pm,** before the Vespers service begins at 7.30pm. If you're staying overnight and need a sleeping bag, we may be able to help. Please ask Debbie at: [springlering@hotmail.com](mailto:springlering@hotmail.com)

**The Easter Breakfast will be served at 7.30am,** with a vegan option included. Everyone is welcome whether you've been at the over-night Vigil or come for the Dawn Eucharist at 6.15am.

If stairs are not possible for you, we will bring breakfast to you! It's a moving and special time and we hope you'll come if you can. If you have any questions or worries about Saturday and Sunday hospitality, don't hesitate to ask Ayla [associaterector@sjp.org.uk](mailto:associaterector@sjp.org.uk) or Debbie.

### **Easter Dawn Eucharist**

**Sunday 20th April 6.15am**

A special service that begins in the early morning light. The church gates open at 6am for the Dawn Eucharist at 6.15am. We will gather outside around the Easter fire and light the paschal candle before processing into the church. Once there, the most ancient song of the church, the Exultet, is sung, and all of us renew our baptism vows around the font.



We then return outside for the Eucharist using the bread that will have risen overnight. Breakfast together at 7.30am.

## Parish Eucharist for Easter

Sunday 20th April at 11am in church and on YouTube

We celebrate the joy of Easter with flowers, trumpets, choir, and the Alleluia Chorus from Handel's Messiah!



## Save the Date: Pilgrimage for the Feast of St Pancras

Sunday 11th May 12.45pm

After the service on Sunday 11th May, join the St James's pilgrimage to St Pancras Euston Road. We will travel by foot, or tube or bus and St Pancras are welcoming us for lunch.

This is a good chance to get to know St Pancras if you haven't been before, as this will be our home for a year during the Wren Project construction.



Meet in the courtyard at St James's at 12.45pm on the day.

Evensong is at 3pm at St Pancras for those who would like to stay ...

## **Service of Thanksgiving for the life of The Revd Donald Reeves**

Tuesday 20th May at 12noon in church and online

All are welcome to celebrate the life and ministry of former Rector of St James's, The Revd Donald Reeves.

The service will be led by the current Rector, The Revd Lucy Winkett, and the preacher is Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury.

The service will include music by Jonathan Dove, commissioned by Donald whilst he was at St James's.

A reception will be held after the service in the church, and the service itself will be online too.





*If you would like to support the work of St James's Church, please scan this QR code with your smartphone to make a one-off or regular donation.*

*Alternatively, please visit [sjp.org.uk/donate](http://sjp.org.uk/donate), or use one of the tap donation points in the church.*



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