



SAINTS A & A

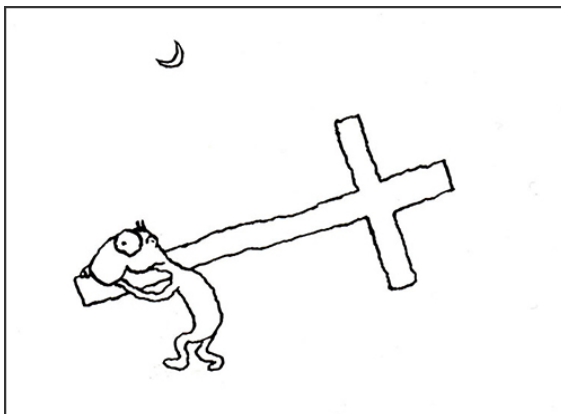


Worship@Home Friday 10th April
Good Friday
Meeting by Zoom Saints A & A

You will be able to ring (Land Line/Mobile) on this number
+64 9 884 6780 New Zealand Password: 042605
Meeting ID: 796 254 378

If you want to go video with Zoom click on this reference
<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/796254378?pwd%3Dd2ZXVk9SNTF1ZlVBMkl5ZEQ0SXBKdz09&sa=D&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw3ua5bO4WPAmZZC0T-ygwIJ> **and put in the password if you are asked 042605**

9:00am - 9:25am Welcome and settling in Cuppa and Hot Cross Buns
getting your own ☺ so as not to bust the bubble.





Good Friday 10th April 2020

Saints A & A

Birkenhead Northcote

Aotearoa New Zealand

9:30am Gathering song: Where you there when the crucified my Lord

Invitation (LF)

We come here today to remember a man. A man...
 who had dreams,
 who had those dreams shattered,
 who needed time to think and pray,
 who knew he was likely to die for what he believed...
 A man of extraordinary religious insight.
 A man who did die - a cruel death.

We Remember... (CRG)

On this day we look at the cross, and we remember...
 the betrayal of friendship and its consequences,
 the casual cruelty of Roman authority and execution,
 and how unreliable others proved to be in a crisis.
 On this day may we also remember
 that religious bigotry, cruelty and unreliability
 are still a part of our everyday lives.
 On this day, then, may we learn some new precepts for living...
 do not avoid contact with suffering, or close your eyes before suffering;
 do not maintain anger or hatred;
 do not say untruthful things for the sake of personal interest,
 or to impress people;
 do not live with a vocation that is harmful to humans and nature...
 On this day we remember.¹

Singing: This Easter celebration

Welcoming Space (LF)

In hope, in longing:

We're glad to come together.

In solidarity with those who struggle:

We're glad to come together.

In resistance to those who dominate:

We're glad to come together.

In memory of Jesus, who lived with compassion:

We're glad to come together.

In memory of all who act with courage:

All **We're glad to come together.** ⁱⁱ

Reading 1

Luke 23:1-32 (*Inclusive text*)

The elders of the people and the chief priests and scribes rose,
and they brought Jesus before Pilate.

They began their accusation by saying,

"We found this man inciting our people to revolt, opposing payment of
tribute to Caesar,

and claiming to be Christ, a king."

Pilate put Jesus this question,

"Are you the king of the Jews?"

"It is you who say it," Jesus replied.

Reflection 1

I remember a man who had dreams of what might be:

that people would be set free from ideas and images

about God that enslaved them,

that people would believe that through their everyday acts of human
kindness

they are intimately connected with the sacred,

that people would live

'in peace, in God's presence all the days of their lives'

I remember a man driven by his dreams. ⁱⁱⁱ

Silence

Reading 2

Pilate then said to the chief priests and the crowds,

"I find no case against this man."

But they persisted,

"He is inflaming the people with his teaching all over Judea;

it has come all the way from Galilee, where he began, down to here."

Reflection 2

I remember a man who had his moments of breakthrough,

when it must have seemed his dream was being realised:

the times people really listened and responded,

the men and women who were prepared to walk with him and support him,

times when he spoke better and more convincingly than other times.

I remember a man enthused by his successes.

Silence

Reading 3

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean.

And finding that he came under Herod's jurisdiction, he passed him over to Herod

who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was delighted to see Jesus;

he had heard about him and had been wanting for a long time to set eyes on him;

he was hoping to see some miracle worked by Jesus.

So Herod questioned Jesus at some length, but without getting a reply.

Reflection 3

I remember a man who learned of the cruel death of his cousin.

He got into a boat, seeking a lonely place, where he could be with his friends to absorb the shock,

to grieve quietly,

and to calm the feelings of powerlessness and frustration and fear for his own future.

I wonder what he prayed about that night?

I wonder what helped him leave that lonely place

and go forward to confront life,
rather than retreat into isolation and safety?
I remember a man driven by his convictions.

Silence

Reading 4

Then Herod, together with his guards, treated Jesus with contempt and made fun him;

Herod put a rich cloak on Jesus, and sent him back to Pilate.

And though Herod and Pilate had been enemies before,
they were reconciled that same day.

Pilate then summoned the chief priests and the leaders and the people.

"You brought this man before me," Pilate said. "as a political agitator.

"Now I have gone into the matter myself in your presence and found no case
against him

in respect of all the charges you bring against him.

"Nor has Herod either, since he has sent him back to us.

As you can see, the man has done nothing that deserve death,
so I shall have him flogged and then let him go."

But altogether they howled,

"Away with him! Give us Barabbas!"

Pilate was anxious to set Jesus free and addressed them again,
but they shouted back, "Crucify, crucify him!"

Reflection 4

I remember a man whose dream was shattered:
who broke down and cried over what could have been,
who knew the pain of failure and powerlessness,
who knew what it was like to feel broken and terribly alone.
I remember someone human like all of us. **Silence**

Reading 5

Pilate then gave a verdict: their demand was to be granted.

Pilate released Barabbas whom they asked for and who had been imprisoned
for rioting and murder,

and handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they pleased.

Reflection 5

I remember a man who knew he was going to die:
 who gathered with his friends knowing it was for the last time,
 who spoke to them about what he really believed,
 who wanted them to remember him and to keep his dream alive.
 I remember a testament to love.

Silence

Reading 6

Luke 23:33 (*Inclusive Text*)

When they reached the place called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the two criminals also,
 one on the right, the other on the left.

Reflection 6

I remember a man crucified.
 He was a failure, abandoned by his male friends, taunted, despised,
 enduring a shameful and agonising death,
 no consoling or heartfelt presence of his God to help him.
 I remember a man whose faith in all he believed was tested to the limits.

Silence

Singing our confessions: When illness meets denial and rejection

Reflection 7

I remember a man of extraordinary religious insight:
 utterly convinced of the connectedness
 between human loving and living in God,
 determined to give people personal authority in their relationship with God,
 wanting to set people free from fear of the unknown,
 setting his heart on breaking down barriers between people...

Silence

Reflection

We give thanks for the ways
 in which the life, teaching, and death of Jesus, have set us free.
 Jesus provides a glimpse into another this-world reality.
 His vision is worth exploring.

For I am encouraged to celebrate life,
 to suck the marrow out of existence, to explore, and probe,
 and experiment, to venture into uncharted seas,
 without fear of a tyrannical and vindictive God.
 He does not set limits on my curiosity... ^{iv}

Silence

An Affirmation of Faith

It is now time for us to leave this place.
 Let us commend ourselves into the hands of God.

We believe in God around us, (LF)
 Dreamer and sustainer of life. (CRG)

**When there was nothing but an ocean of tears,
 God sighed over the waters and dreamed a small dream:
 light in the darkness,
 a small planet in space.**

We believe in God beside us, (LF)
 Jesus as the Christ, dream made flesh. (CRG)

**When hate and fear were raging, when love was beaten down,
 when hope was nailed and left to die,
 Christ entered into our deep secret places
 and went down into our death to find us.**

We believe in God within us, (LF)
 Spirit who empowers the dream. (CRG)

**Who weeps with us in our despair,
 who breathes on prison doors, never admitting it's hopeless,
 always expecting the bars to bend and sway
 and break forth into blossom. ^v**

Concluding Song: Psalm 46: God is our shelter and strength
 As we are singing blow out your candle. We will light it when we meet on
 Easter Sunday Morning.



Here is the detail of connecting by zoom again you be reminded a couple of times. BY just getting the blue underlined below it will bring you into the services

Join Zoom Meeting for Easter Services

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/410589139?pwd=YWIFWTNFUUhkbDZGSUhhkcFdnU290Zz09>

Meeting ID: 410 589 139

Password: 070882

Dial by your location

+64 9 884 6780 New Zealand

+64 4 886 0026 New Zealand

Meeting ID: 410 589 139

Password: 070882

ⁱ Edited – M Dobson, M Morwood, Thich Nhat Hanh

ⁱⁱ Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer

ⁱⁱⁱ The following reflections are adaptations from Michael Morwood's book - details below

^{iv} Robert Funk/adapted

^v Adapt./DMcRae-McMahon/eoj