



# **Why have you forsaken me? The Covenant Broken**

**Good Friday, 2024**

**Knox Church, Ōtautahi, Christchurch**

# Good Friday

*Good Friday is the day on which the Church remembers the crucifixion and death of Jesus. On this day, we recall the people's cruelty to Jesus, and interpret it as human nature's desire to push God away. Accordingly, several aspects of the usual service that assert the presence of God are omitted. There is no opening greeting ("May God be with you") and no benediction at the end. Further, following the Prayer of Confession there is no Assurance of Pardon.*

*The heart of the Good Friday service is the reading of Jesus' Passion. This year the Passion is taken from John's gospel.*

*The service ends when, at the conclusion of the epilogue, the minister leaves the church. Please keep a silence in the church after the service, and when you feel moved to leave, please do so quietly. Feel no pressure to leave the church immediately; the minister will not be waiting at the door. There is no morning tea today.*

*While Good Friday is a day of sorrow, and a stark occasion in the calendar of the Christian Faith, it does not stand alone. On Easter Day the sequel to Good Friday begins. It is important that you hear the second part of the story of the death of Jesus. Please make an effort to come to the service on Easter Day. If you are out of town on Sunday, you can always view the Easter sermon online - the Youtube link will be posted on the Knox website:*

*<http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/news.html>*

*We welcome and thank Sarah McCracken for playing the violin this morning.*

## The Service

### The Prayer of Confession

. . . Lord have mercy.  
**CHRIST HAVE MERCY.**  
Lord have mercy.

**Hymn:**

Passion Chorale

*melody from Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)*



1. O sacred head! Sore wounded,  
with grief and shame weighed down!  
O kingly head, surrounded  
with thorns, thine only crown!  
How pale art thou with anguish,  
with sore abuse and scorn!  
How does that face now languish,  
which once was bright as morn.
2. What language shall I borrow  
to praise thee, heavenly friend,  
for this, thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?  
O make me thine forever,  
and, should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
outlive my love to thee.
3. Be near me, Lord, when dying;  
O show thy cross to me;  
and, my last need supplying,  
come, Lord, and set me free;  
these eyes, new faith receiving,  
from thee shall never move;  
for they who die believing  
die safely through thy love.

*Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676), from Salve caput cruentatum  
attrib. Bernard of Clairvaux (1091-1153)  
tr. James Waddell Alexander (1804-1859) and others, alt.*

## A Psalm: Psalm 22: 1-11

### A Reflection: Penny for your thoughts

Generally, sermons are posted on our website shortly after the service at: <http://www.knoxchurch.co.nz/sermons.html> Hard copies of the sermons are available before and after the service – ask the person at the door. A video of this sermon being practised is available from 10:00am today: <https://youtu.be/AWauAFyG9xA>

### Hymn:

Salley Gardens

Irish folk tune



1. Here hangs a man discarded,  
a scarecrow hoisted high,  
a nonsense pointing nowhere  
to all who hurry by.  
Can such a clown of sorrows  
still bring a useful word  
where faith and love seem phantoms  
and every hope absurd?
2. Can he give help or comfort  
to lives by comfort bound,  
where drums of dazzling progress  
give strangely hollow sound?  
Life emptied of all meaning,  
drained out in bleak distress,  
can share in broken silence  
my deepest emptiness;
3. and love that freely entered  
the pit of life's despair  
can name our hidden darkness  
and suffer with us there.

Christ, in our darkness risen,  
help all who long for light  
to hold the hand of promise  
and walk into the light.

*Brian Wren (b.1936)*

**A Story of the Forsaken Christ:** St. John 18 & 19

**Music for Reflection:** Remembrances  
John Williams (b. 1932)  
Violin: Sarah McCracken

*We ask that no applause be offered today*

**Prayers for the World and the Lord's Prayer**

*To the minister's words, "They say "Why have you forsaken us",  
you are invited to respond, "**DOES THE COVENANT BREAK?**"*

**OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN  
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME,  
YOUR KINGDOM COME,  
YOUR WILL BE DONE,  
ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN.  
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.  
FORGIVE US OUR SINS  
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.  
SAVE US FROM THE TIME OF TRIAL  
AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL.  
FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER AND THE  
GLORY  
ARE YOURS NOW AND FOR EVER.  
AMEN.**

*Without announcement, we stand to sing*

**Hymn:**

Rockingham

Edward Miller (1731-1807)



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

*Isaac Watts (1674-1748)*

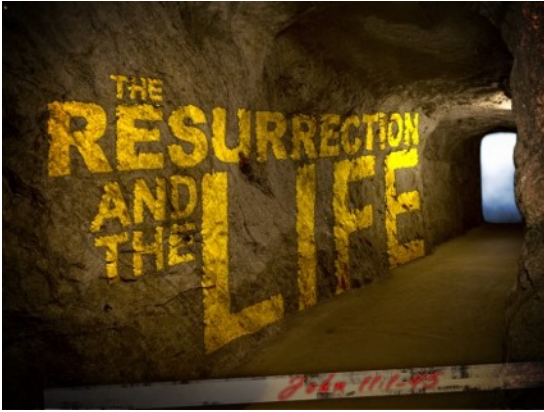
**Epilogue:** . . . in sorrow and horror as the covenant breaks

**No Benediction**

# Easter Day

## The Eternal Covenant

31 March



The service begins with the reading of John's version of the Resurrection story.

Romans 6: 3-11 - As the news of the Resurrection of Jesus is shared with Jesus' people, God's covenant promise to humanity becomes the eternal, never-dying covenant.

We celebrate communion and sing some great Easter hymns.

# Knox Directory

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## Keeping in Touch

Please help us get acquainted with you by filling in this form  
and putting it in the offering bag.

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Contact details