

**St John's, Bourne End
worshipping together while we are apart**

Collect

Good Friday

I suggest that if there is more than one of you, you choose someone to read the words in normal print and all join in with the words in bold or if you are alone, you silently read the words in normal print and say the words in bold out loud. Try not to rush through the words but allow some time for God to speak to you and you to hear him.

Remember, although we may be physically apart, we are together in spirit as we worship God together because we are all part of God's family at St John's.

Rebecca

Sentences from Scripture

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow.

Lamentations 1.12

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,
it remains just a single grain;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

John 12.24

May I never boast of anything
except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by which the world has been crucified to me,
and I to the world.

Galatians 6.14

**Almighty Father, look with mercy
on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ
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 is kept

Confession

Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have failed you
as did your first disciples.
We ask for your mercy and your help.

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
When we take our ease rather than watch with you:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

When we bestow a kiss of peace yet nurse enmity in our hearts:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

When we strike at those who hurt us rather than stretch out our hands to
bless:

Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

When we deny that we know you for fear of the world and its scorn:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days. **Amen.**

Intercession

Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.

For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean spiritual death, and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people, that through the suffering of disunity there may grow a rich union in Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them, that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for justice and peace,

let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation, that they may find support and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow, feel that God is far from them, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith, May find mercy in the day of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Bible readings

Psalm 22

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 52.13–end of 53

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

John 19

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
**because by your holy cross
you have redeemed the world.**

This is the wood of the cross,
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

Come, let us worship.

O Saviour of the world, who by your cross and precious blood have
redeemed us,

Save us and help us, we humbly pray.

Father, hear our prayer and forgive us.

Unstop our ears,

that we may receive the gospel of the cross.

Lighten our eyes,

that we may see your glory in the face of your Son.

Penetrate our minds,

that your truth may make us whole.

Irradiate our hearts with your love,

that we may love one another for Christ's sake.

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus
Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who
suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory. Through
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Response

[When I survey the wondrous cross](#) (click on the link to hear this being
played)

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?

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!

Closing prayer

May Christ crucified draw us to himself,
To find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of our sins forgiven. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn

*The links to the ecumenical Good Friday service which is usually in the town
and materials for Sunnyside's reflective three hours at the cross service
(you can dip in and out!) are on the St John's website. Why not take a look?*