



## Good Friday

April 18, 2025 at 12 noon

*Cover image: Cross of Nails from Coventry Cathedral in England. Photograph by Heather Luccock.*

A **Coventry Cross of Nails** (in German, *Nagelkreuz von Coventry*) is a Christian cross made from iron nails, employed as a symbol of peace and reconciliation. The original version was made from three large medieval nails salvaged from the Coventry Cathedral after the building was severely damaged by German bombs on 14 November 1940, during the Second World War. In the following decades, several hundred crosses have been given as gifts to various organisations, including churches, prisons and schools. The form of the cross echoes the crucifixion of Christ, and the nails with which Christ was affixed to the cross according to some accounts.

**The Cross of Nails prayer**, also known as the *Litany of Reconciliation*, is a prayer for forgiveness and reconciliation, inspired by the Coventry Cross of Nails, a symbol of peace and reconciliation. The prayer specifically addresses sins and failings, asking for forgiveness for hatred, prejudice, and indifference, with the response "Father, forgive". The words echo the prayer of Jesus as he hung dying on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." This simple prayer, "Father, forgive," acknowledges our need to receive forgiveness from God for ourselves, as well as ask it for others. We will be using this litany in today's service.

This cover picture together with a mounted enlargement of the picture (mounted by Rhonda Garton) form the focus for our Meditation on the Cross this Good Friday.

## **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME & INTENTION**

*Rev. Dr. Angus Stuart, Temporary Priest-in-Charge*

*Silence may be kept.*

### **OPENING HYMN**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (CP 386)

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 cross 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.

## **COLLECT**

**Gracious and eternal God,  
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;**

**and grant us to rejoice in the benefits of his passion;  
through the One who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. Amen.**

*Leader* All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned every one to our own way,

*People* **And the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.**

*Leader* Christ the Lord became obedient unto death,

*People* **Even death on a cross.**

### **KYRIE (Lord Have Mercy)**

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison,  
Christe eleison, Christe eleison,  
Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.

*Presider:* All Loving God have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH**

*Read by...*

See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.  
Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human  
semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals—

so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
For he grew up before him like a young plant,  
and like a root out of dry ground;  
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.  
He was despised and rejected by others;  
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;  
and as one from whom others hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities  
and carried our diseases;  
yet we accounted him stricken,  
struck down by God, and afflicted.  
But he was wounded for our transgressions,  
crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,  
and by his bruises we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have all turned to our own way,  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.  
Who could have imagined his future?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living,

stricken for the transgression of my people.  
They made his grave with the wicked  
and his tomb with the rich,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.  
When you make his life an offering for sin,  
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;  
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

Out of his anguish he shall see light;  
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many  
righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

because he poured out himself to death,  
and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

and made intercession for the transgressors.

ISAIAH 52.13 – 53.12

## PSALM 22

*Leader            My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
                         and are so far from my cry  
                         and from the words of my distress?*

*People 1        O my God, I cry in the daytime,  
                         but you do not answer;  
                         by night as well, but I find no rest.  
                         Yet you are the Holy One,  
                         enthroned upon the praises of Israel.*

*All                **My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

*People 2* Our forefathers put their trust in you;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.  
They cried out to you and were delivered;  
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.  
But as for me, I am a worm and no man,  
scorned by all and despised by the people.

*All* ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

*People 1* All who see me laugh me to scorn;  
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,  
"He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

*All* ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

*People 2* Yet you are he who took me out of the womb,  
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.  
I have been entrusted to you  
ever since I was born;  
you were my God  
when I was still in my mother's womb.

*All* ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

*People 1* Be not far from me, for trouble is near,  
and there is none to help.  
Many young bulls encircle me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

*All* ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

*People 2* They open wide their jaws at me,  
like a ravening and a roaring lion.  
I am poured out like water;  
all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

*People 1* My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;  
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

*People 2*      Packs of dogs close me in,  
and gangs of evildoers circle around me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet;  
I can count all my bones.

*All*            ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

*People 1*      They stare and gloat over me;  
they divide my garments among them;  
they cast lots for my clothing.

*All*            ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

*Pause*

*Leader*      *Be not far away, O Lord;  
you are my strength; hasten to help me.*

*People 1*      Save me from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog.

*People 2*      Save me from the lion's mouth,  
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

*People 1*      I will declare your name to my brethren;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.  
Praise the Lord, you that fear him;  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

*People 2*      For he does not despise nor abhor  
the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them;  
but when they cry to him, he hears them.

*All*            ***My praise is of him in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows  
in the presence of those who worship him.***

*Leader*      *The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:*



*All                   **"May your heart live for ever!"**  
**All the ends of the earth shall remember**  
**and turn to the Lord,**  
**and all the families of the nations**  
**shall bow before him.***

*Leader           For kingship belongs to the Lord;  
he rules over the nations.*

*All                   **To him alone all who sleep in the earth**  
**bow down in worship;**  
**all who go down to the dust fall before him.***

*Leader           My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.*

*All                   **They shall come and make known**  
**to a people yet unborn**  
**the saving deeds that he has done.***

**GOSPEL HYMN:** Beneath the Cross of Jesus (VU135)

Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I fain would take my stand;  
The shadow of a mighty rock  
Within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness,  
A rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noontide heat  
And burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus  
My eyes at times can see  
The very dying form of One  
Who suffered there for me;  
And from my smitten heart, with tears,  
Two wonders I confess:

The wonder of his glorious love,  
And my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, your shadow  
For my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
The sunshine of his face;  
Content to let the world go by,  
To know no gain or loss;  
My sinful self my only shame,  
My glory all the cross.

## **THE GOSPEL OF THE PASSION ACCORDING TO JOHN**

*Angus Stuart*

*Please sit for the first part of the Passion story.*

*Please stand after Jesus is handed over to be crucified.*

*After the Passion we sit for a period of silence.*

## **MUSIC FOR REFLECTION**

### **MEDITATION ON THE CROSS**

### **PRAYER AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS**

*You are invited to come and bring the stone you were given  
at the beginning of the service, and lay it at the foot of the  
cross as a symbol of all you bring to God in prayer.*

*During this we will sing:*

Stay with me,  
Remain here with me.  
Watch and pray,  
Watch and pray.

## LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.*

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race,  
class from class,

**Father, forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what  
is not their own,

**Father, forgive.**

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays  
waste the earth,

**Father, forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

**Father, forgive.**

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the  
homeless, the refugee,

**Father, forgive.**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and  
children,

**Father, forgive.**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in  
God,

**Father, forgive.**

*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one  
another, **as God in Christ forgave you.***

## The Lord's Prayer

*Leader* Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom  
in the words our Saviour Christ has taught us:

*All* **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.**

*The service ends with the following prayer.  
No blessing or dismissal is added.*

## CLOSING PRAYER

Pour down your abundant blessing, O Lord,  
upon us, your people,  
as we carry with us the memory of the death of your Son,  
in the sure and certain hope of resurrection.  
Grant us pardon and peace;  
strengthen our faith  
and give us the assurance of eternal salvation.  
We ask through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? (CP192)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?  
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

*Please keep silence as you leave the church building.*

**Thank you for ministering this morning:**

**Presider:** Rev. Angus Stuart

**Music:** Hyejung Jun

**Greeters:** Marion Porter and Gillian Holland

**Altar Guild:** Sharon Fedorak

**Reader:** John Luccock

**Livestream:** Ashkon Vahedi

### **HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2025**

#### **HOLY SATURDAY**

##### **APRIL 19, 5PM: Kindling the Fire of New life**

Traditionally, the church kindles a fire in the darkness of Holy Saturday as a sign of hope and light in dark times. From this New Fire the Resurrection candle is lit. (Smores may be involved!)

#### **EASTER SUNDAY: APRIL 20, 10AM**

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**SAINT CATHERINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

1058 Ridgewood Dr, North Vancouver, BC, V7R 1H8

T 604.985.0666

| [saint-catherines.org](http://saint-catherines.org)