



GOOD FRIDAY

The heavens knew you
and gave a star to honour your birth
The sea recognised you
and held you up when you walked upon it
The wind confessed to knowing you
and was silenced by your voice
The earth saw its creator
and trembled when you were crucified
But lovers of the world failed to understand

Hymn 277 [My song is love unknown](#)

Prayer

It is not a tall spire or steeple bell that calls us to
worship but a stark cross against a silent sky

Lord have mercy - Christ have mercy

There is no aisle or majestic vaulting leading to
your altar - but a pathway of pain and insults
denial by friends

Lord have mercy - Christ have mercy

It is not costly vestments that draw the eye or
sombre liturgy that stirs the heart.

But a naked man with outstretched arms
surpassing, surrounding, inhabiting our suffering

Lord have mercy – Christ have mercy

No flowers here or fragrant incense
but a crown of thorns
and deep red self-giving love

Lord have mercy - Christ have mercy

Where are your friends to greet you and thank
you for the work you have done?

There are none,
only the separation caused by sin
felt fully in the heart of God

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy

Hymn 274

[Jesus Christ, I think upon your sacrifice](#)

Readings:

[Isaiah 53: 1-12](#) and [John 18:1 – 19:42](#)

Isaiah sees a suffering servant but couldn't
conceive that God would not only provide the
sacrifice but become the sacrifice.

**'Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my
God, shouldst die for me?**

Why did Jesus suffer and die on the cross?
Emmanuel means 'God with us' – but is it too
shocking for us to think that this was somehow
God suffering the pain and abandonment?

'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!'

Maybe it is easier for us to separate out the
Trinity – and see a wrathful Father, angry at our
sin, insisting on a punishment that falls on his
only son. But we believe in One God: God the
Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

And the Bible tells us that God is love.

**'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore, let angel
minds enquire no more.'**

Christ's suffering shows us in human form the
consequences of sin and alienation. This is God
absorbing pain, empathising with the injured,
halting an escalation of retribution, restoring
relationship, healing wounds. This crucifying
pain and desire for reconciliation has always
been in God's heart.

**'emptied himself of all but love, and bled for
Adam's helpless race.'**

To understand cross we need to understand
love. Can we look on the cross with a realisation
that God loves to forgive, and not to punish?
God the Son suffers, for love not for punishment,
all the pain of sin and separation caused by sin.
And so this pain is all felt fully in the heart of the
Trinity...

**'Tis mercy all, immense and free; for, O my
God, it found out me'**

Hymn 285 – [When I survey](#)

Prayers of Intercession and Lord's Prayer

Where Christ walks - **We will follow**

Where Christ stumbles - **We will stop**

Where Christ cries - **We will listen**

Where Christ suffers - **We will hurt**

When Christ dies –

We bow our heads in sorrow

When Christ rises –

We will share his endless joy

There is no other way –

He is the only way