



CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS : www.holycrossedinburgh.org

Congregational e-news for Sunday 5 April (Palm Sunday)

From the Rector, the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes

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I. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EACH OTHER

Dear friends at Holy Cross,

It is going to be very strange celebrating Holy Week and Easter apart from each other and apart from our Church. This is the most powerful week of the Christian year - but we can still be united in prayer and other ways. Section 2 below will say more about Holy Week.

This e-news is an essential way of keeping in touch and I am grateful to the members of the congregation who have sent me more email addresses so our circulation is getting ever wider. Our Vestry had a successful meeting on Zoom last week, it was nice to see their faces again and great when the business of the day gave way to a general blether. Our new Facebook page 'Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains' is reaching more people. In addition to this, every time I phone a member of the congregation I discover we all seem to be in regular contact with each other – Jennie Corse said to me last week “Holy Cross is like a family” and to this new Rector it seems to be true! If you think anyone is left out, give them a ring and let me know. If anyone needs help while self-isolating, contact one of our pastoral team:

- Alan Kirkpatrick (07891 237940 or muttley.1@blueyonder.co.uk)
- Helen Smith (07917 695491 or Helgillard@yahoo.com)
- Angela Gardner (07703 443291 or angela.gardner@ajenterprises.co.uk)

Our Church is closed to the public but we remain in contact and our life of prayer goes on. Last week we put up this large, bright, new poster outside Holy Cross to remind those who pass by that this is so.

In addition to this e-news we were able to send out our monthly magazine last week. Thanks to Margaret, Angela and others for making this work at a time when distributing paper copies is not possible. Angela has also put the magazine and this e-news on our website on the News page: [HERE](#) One thing I forgot to put in the magazine was that at the Diocesan Synod on 14 March I was elected one of the Edinburgh clergy representatives to the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church... which has been postponed until later in the year.

Last week the Revd Dan Robertson of Davidson's Mains Parish Church and I had a chat to share how we, our families and our congregations are getting on. We agreed to help our pastoral teams work together and to try and worship together online in Holy Week at the time when we normally have joint services (more about this below).

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

coronavirus...
Our buildings
are temporarily closed for safety

but...
Our Community
is still active
in prayer and service

*Jesus said: love your neighbour
& do not be afraid*

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Like most churches and businesses we are suffering financially and in the last e-news I shared a message from our Treasurer, Colin, that if you usually make donations in cash or use offertory envelopes you might consider making payments via online banking or by setting up a standing order (the Church's bank details are: Royal Bank of Scotland Sort code 83-18-47; Account number 00170278; Account name: Church of the Holy Cross). Many thanks to those who have done this and Gordon has asked me to let you know that if you don't do online banking, you can donate by cheque or via the Virgin Money Giving Button on our website: [HERE](#)



The human impact of this pandemic is much worse than its financial impact; people are suffering, dying and living in fear. By simply staying home and keeping our distance from others we are contributing to the defeat of the coronavirus, but our faith enables us to do more. At Easter Jesus rose from the tomb. This means that death, pandemics and fear don't have the last word: in the end our faith tells us that Love wins. By praying and entering in to the great Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection this Holy Week, even if we can't share in this Mystery by Holy Communion, we can do our bit. I end, as before, with Jesus' words which seem ever more relevant in this crisis: 'LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AND DO NOT BE AFRAID'.

With love in Christ,
Stephen

2. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH GOD

Palm Sunday	10.30am	Eucharist with Procession and Palms
Mon-Weds	10.30am	Eucharist
Maundy Thursday	7.30pm	Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper, Foot Washing and Stripping of the Altar + online video
Good Friday	2pm 7.30pm	Passion, Veneration of the Cross, Communion Stations of the Cross + online video
Holy Saturday	9pm	The Great Vigil of Easter with Eucharist
Easter Sunday	10.30am	Easter Eucharist

What is Christianity about? One obvious answer is Jesus' words: "love God and love your neighbour as yourself". This is the moral answer. Many non-Christians do all these things, though, and we thank God for that. If this love is Christian, it is based not just on what Jesus taught but what he did: this gives us the strength to love.

When St Paul answered this question for new Christians in Corinth, a couple of decades after the crucifixion, he wrote: "what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." This doctrinal answer, "Jesus crucified and risen",

also goes back to Jesus. When the Gospels came to be written later, they were like Crucifixion stories with a prequel (...and a happy ending).

In Holy Week and Easter we not only remember Jesus being crucified and rising from the dead, we actually experience it in our worship. In every Eucharist “we recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension” and they are truly present, but in this coming Week we take part in these mysteries as they appear before our eyes. We join with Jesus as he passes over from death to life, just as in the Passover the people of Israel passed over from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

The Greek for Passover is ‘Pascha’ and so what we experience in Holy Week is called the Paschal Mystery. It is “Jesus crucified and risen”. We love Christmas, but in reality it is just a preface to the Paschal Mystery. The most powerful days in the Christian year are the three days at the end of Holy Week called the ‘Sacred Triduum’ (the ‘Holy Three Days’). They start in the evening of Maundy Thursday with the Eucharist of the Lord’s Supper, move on with Jesus to the Cross on Good Friday afternoon, then wait in the tomb until, on the night of Holy Saturday, after a long vigil, Jesus rises from the tomb. I have seen it again and again that if you take part in all the great services of these days you will be changed by encountering this Mystery.

From the evening of Maundy Thursday, when the bread and wine of the sacrament is hidden away, until the Eucharist at the end of the Easter Vigil the sacraments are not celebrated because this is the time of Christ’s passion and death. In the old days only the priest would receive communion on Good Friday but now we all receive from the sacrament hidden away on Thursday. This year by necessity we will go back to the old model. We have to fast from the sacraments and this Triduum will last for much longer than three days for us. Perhaps this is a way of understanding these strange times?

The readings and prayers below can be a way of sharing in the Paschal Mystery. I intend to celebrate the liturgies in Church or Oratory at the times listed at the head of this section and invite you to join me in prayer then. The Revd Dan Robertson and I have agreed that at 7.30pm on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday we will make and broadcast short worship videos to take the place of the joint services we would normally do then and publish them on our Church Facebook pages, their [YouTube channel](#) and website so we can still join together. I haven’t done this before so the one on Maundy Thursday may be very basic!!

On Palm Sunday this week’s Scottish Episcopal Church Eucharist will be celebrated by Bishop Andrew Swift of Brechin and will be available at I am on the SEC website:

<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/>

3. PRAYER & READINGS FOR HOLY WEEK

These are offered so we can stay together in our prayers even if we can’t meet together.

The collects and readings are those that are used in Church at the Eucharist, Daily Prayer and the ceremonies of the Paschal Triduum. Choose which ones you want to use and don’t feel any obligation to do everything! If we do use even some of them we know we are part of a big community, all meditating on the same bits of the Bible each day and all praying in the same way. This can be a consolation when we are isolated.

All the readings for the whole year can be downloaded by clicking on this link:

<https://www.osp.org.uk/worship/calendar-lectionary/>

PALM SUNDAY - 5 April

- *Collect:* Almighty and everlasting God, in your tender love towards the human race you sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through Christ our Lord, Amen
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Gospel of the Palms: Mt 21.1-11 ; Isaiah 50.4-9a ; Psalm 31.9-16; Philippians 2.5-11 ; Gospel of the Passion Mt 26.14-27.66
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Douglas and Arabella; Isobel W-I); Rev Dan and Davidson's Mains Parish Church; for all consumed with worry. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John; St Martin of Tours, Tynecastle, currently in vacancy

Monday in Holy Week - 6 April

- *Collect:* Almighty God, your most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of his cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Daily Prayer Readings:* Lamentations 1.1-2,6-12 ; 2 Corinthians 1.1-7 ; Mark 11.12-25
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Helen A; Graham H), families with children at home from school. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Berwickshire Episcopal Churches, the Revd Chris Jones - St Mary and All Souls, Coldstream; St Ebba's, Eyemouth; Christ Church, Duns.

Tuesday in Holy Week – 7 April

- *Collect:* O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ, that we may gladly suffer pain and loss for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.
- *Daily Prayer Readings:* Lamentations 1.17-22 ; 2 Corinthians 1.8-22 ; Mark 11.27-33
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Andy; Eric T), those worried about their jobs, businesses & financial situation. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Columba's, Bathgate, and St Peter's, Linlithgow, the Revd Christine Barclay.

Wednesday in Holy Week – 8 April

- *Collect:* Lord God, your blessed Son our Saviour gave his back to the smiters, and did not hide his face from shame: give us grace to endure the sufferings of this present time, with sure confidence in the glory that shall be revealed; through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Daily Prayer Readings:* Lamentations 2.1-9 ; 2 Corinthians 1.23-2.11 ; Mark 12.1-11
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church Community (Heather A; Mike H), those working from home, St Margaret's RC Church. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* St Salvador's, Stenhouse, Fr Andrew Bain, Fr Mariusz Wojciechowski.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 9 April

- *Collect:* God our Father, you have invited us to share in the supper which your Son gave to his Church to proclaim his death until he comes: may we receive the benefits of his

Passion, the new life of his Resurrection, and the grace to love as he loves us; through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- *Evening Eucharist of the Lord's Supper*: Exodus 12.1-14 ; I Corinthians 11.23-26 ; John 13.1-17,31b-35
- *Prayer intentions*: our Church Community (Lucy; Peter S), the NHS, medical staff, emergency services and all key workers. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle*: Christ Church, Falkirk, Revd Sarah & Revd Willie Shaw.

GOOD FRIDAY - 10 April

- *Collect*: 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; through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *The Good Friday Liturgy*: Isaiah 52.13–53.12 ; Psalm 22 ; Hebrews 10.16-25 ; Passion according to John 18.1–19.42
- *Prayer intentions*: our Church Community and those who live around us (Margaret M; Andrew), especially those self-isolating; those who are expecting a baby in the next few months. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle*: Holy Trinity, Haddington, Revd Liz O' Ryan.

HOLY SATURDAY - 11 April

- *Collect*: Almighty, ever-living God, whose Only-begotten Son descended to the realms of the dead, and rose from there to glory, grant that your faithful people who were buried with him in baptism, may, by his resurrection, obtain eternal life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.
- *Daily Prayer Readings*: Job 14.1-14 ; I Peter 4.1-8 ; John 19.38-42
- *Prayer intentions*: our Church community (Molly; our families), those suffering from Covid-19 and their families in the USA & Africa. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle*: St Mark's, Portobello, Revd Dr Sophia Marriage.

THE EASTER VIGIL - the night of 11-12 April

The readings of the Easter Vigil take us through the whole of salvation history from creation to redemption, each with an accompanying song – the song for the Gospel is simply Alleluia. They might make a good thing to read on Holy Saturday. The liturgical books say one can use three or more of the Old Testament readings but one should always read the Passover story from Exodus.

- *Collect*: O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption given to us in baptism; that, being renewed both in body and mind, we may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Christ, our Lord, Amen.
- *Readings for the Vigil*: 1) Genesis 1.1–2.4a with Psalm 136.1-9,23-26 ; 2) Genesis 7.1-5,11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13 with Psalm 46 ; 3) Genesis 22.1-18 with Psalm 16 ; 4) Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21 with the Song of Moses (Exodus 15.1b-13,17-18) ; 5) Isaiah 55.1-11 with the Song of Isaiah (Isaiah 12.2-6) ; 6) Baruch 3.9-15,32–4.4 with Psalm 19 ; 7) Ezekiel 36.24-28 with Psalms 42 & 43 ; 8) Ezekiel 37.1-14 with Psalm 143 ; 9) Zephaniah 3.14-20 with Psalm 98 ; 10) Romans 6.3-11 ; 11) Psalm 114 ; 12) Matthew 28.1-10.

EASTER DAY – 12 April

- *Collect:* Lord of all life and power, through the mighty resurrection of your Son you overcame the old order of sin and death and opened to us the gate of Everlasting Life: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; through Christ our Lord, Amen.
- *Readings at the Eucharist:* Acts 10.34-43 ; Colossians 3.1-4 ; Matthew 28.1-10
- *Prayer intentions:* our Church community (Douglas and Arabella; Isobel W-I); Rev Dan and Davidson's Mains Parish Church; for all consumed with worry. *Edinburgh Diocese Prayer Cycle:* Bishop John; Old St Paul's, Edinburgh, Fr John McLuckie

4. HYMN OF THE WEEK : When I survey the wondrous Cross (NEH 95)

When Isaac Watts (1674-1748) wrote this, he thought of it as a Communion hymn and so it is doubly appropriate for Holy Week. The Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday and the Crucifixion on Good Friday are two aspects of the one sacrifice of Christ re-presented but not repeated each week in the Holy Eucharist. Although Watts was a Protestant Minister his words recall the passionate medieval devotion to the crucified Christ, his five wounds and his precious blood. It is usually sung to the tune Rockingham, named not after the village where the Rector's wife grew up but after a Prime Minister, the Marquis of Rockingham.

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?

His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the Tree;
Then I am dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

5. AFTERWORD : The Reproaches

On Good Friday afternoon, when Christians come forward to venerate the Holy Cross, the choir traditionally sings the Reproaches. They are used by Christians in different forms in both East and West. They are a collection of Bible verses put in the mouth of Jesus on the cross as he reproaches his people. This may not seem very 'Christian', but in each case the reproaches are piercingly true. In the past, forgetting that Jesus was himself a Jew, they were misunderstood as a criticism of the Jews as a race, but this version applies them to us as well as to God's people throughout the ages. There is hope for us as we are given a response, the Trisagion (Greek for 'thrice-holy'), by which we respond to Christ's reproach by praising God and calling upon his mercy. The pain of Good Friday already contains a hidden glimmer of hope.

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow
which was brought upon me,
which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

**All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

O my people, O my Church, what have I done to you,
or in what have I offended you?

Testify against me.

I led you forth from the land of Egypt,
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,
but you have prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

I led you through the desert forty years,
and fed you with manna.

I brought you through tribulation and penitence,
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven,
but you prepared a cross for your Saviour.

**All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

What more could I have done for you
that I have not done?

I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,
I made you the branches of my vine;
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink,
and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour.

**All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
and you have led me to the judgement hall of Pilate.
I scourged your enemies and brought you
to a land of freedom,
but you have scourged, mocked and beaten me.
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,
but you have given me gall and left me to thirst.

All **Holy God,**
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,
and washed your feet as a sign of my love,
but you draw the sword to strike in my name,
and seek high places in my kingdom.
I offered you my body and blood,
but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

All **Holy God,**
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you,
and you close your hearts to the Counsellor.
I pray that all may be one in the Father and me,
but you continue to quarrel and divide.
I call you to go and bring forth fruit,
but you cast lots for my clothing.

All **Holy God,**
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters;
I was hungry and you gave me no food,
I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,
I was a stranger and you did not welcome me,
naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

All **Holy God,**
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.

I am your Creator, Lord of the universe;
I have entrusted this world to you, and called you to care for it,
but you have created the means to destroy it.

All **Holy God,**
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.