



Passion for Exeter

United Good Friday Service



18 April 2025

10am

www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk

#ExeterCathedral #YourCathedral

Welcome to this annual united Good Friday service

We're so glad you're here to join us, with people from all sorts of different churches and walks of life, all over Exeter. You are most welcome!

We're gathered to worship together on this Good Friday as we immerse ourselves in the events of that Good Friday over 2000 years ago and recognise our own response to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and offer of forgiveness. It's important and significant that we join together. Jesus prayed for us to be in unity:

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."
(John 17:20-23)

We're very grateful to the Cathedral's staff for their support in hosting this service. Thank you to the Salvation Army and the Cathedral Organist. Thank you to those who read Scripture and prayed as well as our speaker, Sabrina Groeschel, Churches Together Devon. Thanks also to Exeter Street Pastors for their assistance.

There will be an opportunity for you to give a monetary offering in our last 2 songs. Please do not feel obliged to give, but if you would like to, the money will go towards the **Try Praying** initiative.

Try Praying (www.trypraying.org) is a national initiative designed to get people praying and in this way, exploring the Christian faith and who Jesus is. To mark the lead up to this service, churches across the city have raised TryPraying banners and are distributing TryPraying booklets. Perhaps you've noticed one in your area?

There are 500 booklets at the back of the Cathedral and we invite you to take one if you have never tried praying before. We also invite you to take one if you would like to read it and then give it away to a friend, colleague, family member, neighbour or anyone else you feel prompted to. Perhaps you could follow up on their thoughts after they have read it?

After this 45 minute service, we'll gather outside to continue our worship and witness. You are also warmly invited to join your local church on Easter Sunday as we all celebrate the risen Christ!

Order of service

Welcome & opening prayer

Jon Curtis - Wonford Methodist Church & CTaX Exec

Song

The congregation stands and sings

**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 Lord
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 ever 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**

The congregation sits

Bible Reading read by Maria Edwards: Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church & CTaX Exec Meetings Secretary

Luke 23:32-49 (NIV)

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by

casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One." The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself." There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

Song

The congregation stands and sings

**From heaven you came helpless babe
Entered our world, your glory veiled
Not to be served, but to serve
And give your life that we might live**

***This is our God, the Servant King
He calls us now to follow Him
To bring our lives, as a daily offering
Of worship to, the servant king***

**There in the garden of tears
My heavy load he chose to bear
His heart with sorrow was torn
"Yet not my will, but Yours" he said
*This is our God...***

**Come see his hands and his feet
The scars that speak of sacrifice
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails, surrendered.**

This is our God...

**So let us learn how to serve
And in our lives, enthrone Him
Each others needs to prefer
For it is Christ we're serving.
*This is our God...***

Sermon

Sabrina Gröschel - *Ecumenical Officer for Devon*

Song

The congregation stands and sings

**All I once held dear, built my life upon
All this world reveres, and wars to own
All I once thought gain, I have counted loss
Spent and worthless now, compared to this**

***Knowing you, Jesus
Knowing you, there is no greater thing
You're my all, you're the best
You're my joy, my righteousness
And I love you Lord***

**Now my heart's desire is to know you more
To be found in you and known as yours
To possess by faith what I could not earn
All-surpassing gift of righteousness
*Knowing you...***

**Oh to know the power of your risen life
And to know you in your sufferings
To become like you in your death my Lord
So with you to live and never die.
*Knowing you Jesus...***

Prayers

Rev'd Phil Wales - Cathedral Deacon, CTaX Exec

(A collection will be taken during the next two songs which will go towards the Try Praying & Why Easter booklets.)

Song

The congregation stands and sings

**There is a redeemer
Jesus, God's own Son
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Holy One**

***Thank you, oh my Father
For giving us Your Son
And leaving Your Spirit
'Til the work on Earth is done***

**Jesus my redeemer
Name above all names
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah
Oh, for sinners slain**

Thank you, oh my Father...

**When I stand in Glory
I will see His face
And there I'll serve my King forever
In that Holy Place**

Thank you, oh my Father...

Song

**My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die.**

**He came from his blest throne, salvation to bestow:
but men made strange, and none the longed-for
Christ would know.
But O my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!**

**Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises
sing;
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" Is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.**

**In life, no house, no home, my Lord on earth might
have;
in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home:
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.**

**Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.**

Closing blessing and invitation to take a Try Praying booklet - Hannah Richards
(CTaX Chair)

Please join us shortly outside the Cathedral on the green.