

A Meditation for Easter Saturday

This is the waiting day
When, pinioned and powerless,
I wait,
Entombed in the voiceless dark.

I wait, dreamless, with those whose dreams have died,
Who believe they have no hope in hell
Of healing and wholeness, of love, joy and fulfilment.
I am the Hope that waits with them in the darkness.

I wait, wrapped in the cocoon of death,
With those tired of being alive,
Who believe there is no release from their living hell
Of crippling poverty, of fear, of pain, depression, or loss.
I am the Life that waits with them to be born again.

I wait, with all broken Creation, on this Sabbath Day of rest.
I wait for something New.
I wait to be the breaking Good News,
To make myself known to all who wait.

This is the waiting day
When, pinioned and powerless,
I wait, with all in darkness,
For the first glimmers of light heralding
The rising of the son.



Holy Week

DEVOTIONS 2022

Provided by the Yorkshire N&E Methodist District

Each day you might like to light a candle, settle yourself,
breathe and focus.

Then say:

'I take time to remember the suffering and pain,
the fear and anxious waiting, the wish to shift the blame.
Here is all human story, weakness and selfishness.
Yet God is in the story accepting brokenness.'

* Each day, spent some time thinking about the reading:

What has spoken to you?
What do you find difficult?
What is a word of hope or comfort?
What does it inspire you to do?



Thanks to The District worship team:
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The Prayers are written by Chris Odell (Sheasby) © 2022

Monday

Read: Luke 22 v 1 – 23

Meditate on the reading *

Pray:

Today, Lord, all over your world
There are people still planning and plotting
To get rid of those who stand in the way
Of their self-centred search for power and security.
You see them Lord, as together they plot
Warfare, murder, persecution, genocide,
And you see the lives they plan to destroy,
As they planned to destroy the life of Jesus.

Today, Lord, all over your world
There are people still planning and preparing
To remember and feed on the story of Holy Week,
As again they glimpse your plan to save humankind.
You see them, Lord, coming together in love and faith
And you see the lives restored and transformed
By the hope of the Good News of Holy Week,
Of Good Friday and of Easter Day.

Lord, come to us at this time of prayer and preparation
That we, too, may be ready to meet our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

Ask:

*Lord, come to us at this time.
When we are troubled, show us Your loving plans to save us.*

Read (or sing): Singing the Faith 277 *My song is love unknown*

Saturday

Read: Luke 23 v 50 – 56

Meditate on the reading *

Pray:

There have been times, Lord, when we did not know what to say,
When words seemed dangerously inadequate –
Blunt tools that could not express the depth of our sorrow
Or convey the tenderness of our sympathy.

The dying of Christ, our loss of Jesus,
buried away from us in the tomb
Stirs up within us the grief experienced from all the losses
we have known
And makes us more aware of those experiencing loss at this time –
Losses not only of people they love,
but also of health, ability, self-determination,
The loss of hopes and dreams for the future, the loss of faith and joy.

We may struggle to find the words that comfort and heal, Lord,
But we pray that you will give us the wisdom, like Joseph,
To know and do the things that need to be done –
The things that speak of kindness and understanding.
And we pray, too, that you will give us the attentive patience, Lord,
Like those first women disciples, to wait and prepare with prayer
The anointing oils of love and faith and hope
That speak of Resurrection joy to come. **Amen.**

Ask:

*Give us attentive patience.
When we are lost for the right words, guide us in showing your Love.*

Read (or sing) StF285 *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*
(v1-3)

Friday

Read: Luke 23 v 26 – 49

Meditate on the reading *

Pray:

Nothing could have prepared them, Loving God,
for the reality of this day.

They, Christ's disciples, had not and could not understand
that the longed-for Day of the Lord would be marked
by a cross of pain and death.

Nothing can prepare us, Loving God, for the reality of evil.

We do not want to be told that those healing hands were nailed
to the Cross;

- or that children can be taken away and killed,
- or that whole ethnic groups can be exterminated.

Nothing can prepare us, Loving God, for the reality of suffering.

We do not want to hear Christ's cry of desolation from the Cross;

- or the moaning of sick people in pain,
- or the sobbing of the mothers of hungry children.

Nothing can prepare us, Loving God, for the reality of death.

We do not want to witness Christ's parting from us;

- or the last breath of someone we love,
- or be faced with our own mortality.

Nothing can prepare us, Loving God, for the realities of Good Friday,
and only you, Loving God, can console us
with the fulfilment of our hopes on Easter Day. Thank you. **Amen.**

Ask:

Nothing can prepare us.

When we see you on the Cross, open our hearts to your offer of Life.

Read (or sing) StF 287 *When I survey the wondrous cross*

Tuesday

Read: Luke 22 v 24 – 38

Meditate on the reading *

Pray:

These are testing times, Lord -

The pandemic, economic uncertainties, the climate emergency,

The threats of war and our own personal anxieties and pain,

Can put us, and our faith, to the test.

We can find our faith tested, our faith in the power of your Love

And our faith in the goodness of life and one another.

Holy Week was a testing time for those first disciples;

A time that tested their faith in the power of your Love

And their faith in one another and their life together.

Their understanding of discipleship was turned upside down. (v 26)

Their loyalty to you was stretched to breaking point, (v 34)

Their courage and commitment strongly challenged. (v 36)

In our times of testing, Lord,

We pray for the faith, wisdom and courage

To stand firmly by you, (v 28)

That we might be your faithful servants,

Working for the kingdom entrusted to us, (v29)

Until our earthly lives have run their course. **Amen.**

Ask:

The disciples' loyalty was stretched to breaking point.

When we are tested, help us to stand firmly by you.

Read (or sing) StF 360 *Man of Sorrows! What a name*

Wednesday

Read: Luke 22 v 39 – 65

Meditate on the reading *

Pray:

Through the darkness, God, we seek you.
By the dim light of our prayers we feel our way towards you.
Like the disciples, we struggle in the darkness:
We struggle to stay awake and alert for you;
We struggle to get through the swirling fog of doubt and despair;
We struggle to make out the signs that point the Way ahead.

But you, Christ, our Life Companion, did not sleep.
In the Garden, in prayer, you shone your light upon the face of God,
Sharing with your Father the fearful struggle in your heart:
The dark struggle with Fear and Death;
With Sin and Hatred and Despair.

For us, you struggled in the darkness of night.
Beside us, you struggle still.

And although we may not stay awake with you, Lord,
We will rise to a New Day. **Amen.**

Ask:

*By the dim light of our prayers we feel our way towards you.
When we are struggling with uncertainty,
keep us awake and alert to you.*

Read (or sing) StF 432 *O the bitter shame and sorrow*

Thursday

Read: Luke 22 v 66 – 23 v 25

Meditate on the reading *

Pray:

We see them wondering about you, Lord –
Political revolutionary or fanatical peacemaker?
Man of God or a man of the people?
Dangerous threat or life enhancing promiser?
Lord Jesus, when you stood on trial before them
They didn't have a clue who you were!
And, for all their "power", they did not have the strength
To ignore the demands of those rendered weak, blind and sinful
By their self-centredness, cynicism and fear-bred hatred.

Every day, Lord Jesus,
you still stand trial before the people of God's world:
The powerful and the powerless, the learned and the ignorant;
Those who we see as like us and those who seem so very different;
And we still do not really understand who you are –
We are still too often persuaded that you are both dangerous
and irrelevant
We are still afraid to own you our Lord and God.

And every day is a day of judgement for each of us, too,
As we try to answer the well-known, soul-searching question:
"If YOU were on trial for being a Christian
Would there be enough evidence against YOU?"

Ask:

*Jesus, you still stand trial before the world.
When we are challenged, embolden us to own you our Lord
and God.*

Read (or sing) StF 289 *When my love for Christ grows weak*