

Good Friday Worship Service
Friday April 14, 2017

WE GATHER AT THE CROSS

Gathering Song: "The Wonderful Cross"

1 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

2 Forbid Lord that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them through his blood

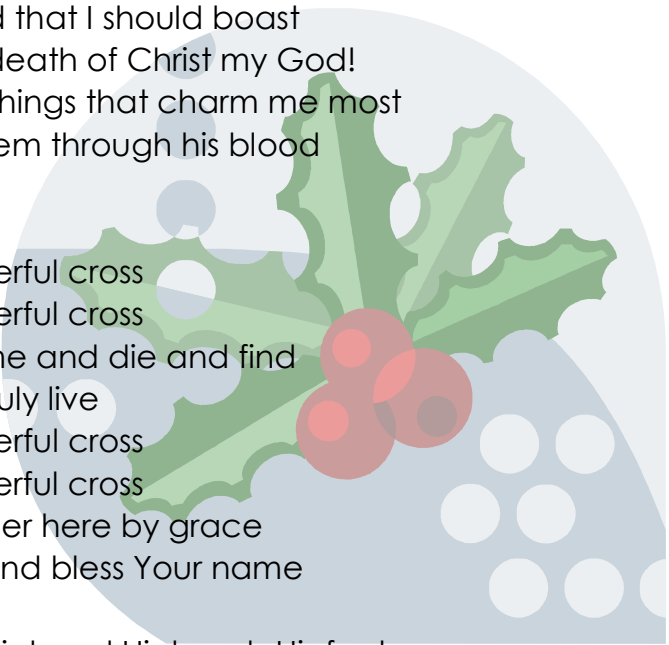
Chorus

O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
Bids me come and die and find
That I may truly live
O the wonderful cross
O the wonderful cross
All who gather here by grace
Draw near and bless Your name

3 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 *Chorus*

4 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 *Chorus*

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The Call to Worship (From Revelation 5: 11-14)

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

“To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

*Song of Adoration: “Man of Sorrows” BoP#210

God's Greeting (*from 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

(Our Lord has called us to worship and now greets us.)

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*(As God has greeted us with his peace,
so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.)*

The Prayer for Illumination

WE STAND AT THE CROSS TO WATCH AND LISTEN

A Reading of Matthew 27:11-32

Song of reflection: “Go to Dark Gethsemane” BoP#230

A Reading from Mark 15: 21-32 & 33-37

Meditation: "When We Feel Forsaken"

Do we have cross shaped ornaments in our homes, our cars, our workstations?
Do we wear crosses as pendants or any jewelry or tattoos or do you have a cross anywhere in your homes as Christians?

Many of us do and for us it stand for something very significant as we remind ourselves of the power of the cross.

I remember visiting an elderly man in Fairfield Manchester, Jamaica in the Easter of 2006. He had lost both legs and so, he pulled himself around on the ground and did everything for himself. I remember walking towards the doorway of his house and seeing a large cross built out of thick metal hanging at the top of the entrance door to his house. I was accompanied by three Elders from the church so we went inside sat with him, shared in a short worship service and had communion with him. He was so happy that we had come to visit him and so he began telling us lots of stories about others who had come to visit him and what gifts they left with him and so on.

We were about to leave and make our way to the next shut in but the cross above his door was resting on my mind. Not only was it very large and noticeable but it was obvious that this cross was recently painted and no doubt meant something significant. Being the curious one I finally asked him, "what was the significance of that large cross above your door?"

He looked at me, laughed and then began telling me a story. He asked if I had heard about the Kendal train crash of 1960's where almost every passenger on a train travelling from Kingston to Montego Bay died after the train derailed its track in Kendal Manchester. Of course, I grew up just about ten miles from Kendal and went to Kendal All Age School for two years, so we did learn about the Kendal train crash in school. He went on to tell me that he was one of the only surviving passengers of that dreaded train crash.

He further recounted how he was found unconscious and taken to hospital where he was given three days to live. At the end of the three days they gave him seven day and after about thirty days in hospital he regained his consciousness and was discharged, only with no legs. He said, he vividly remembers the day he got home from hospital and how he heard of the significant loss of life of passengers on the train. He said he knew that it was God who kept him alive and that somehow God was with him on that train. He remembers the days after returning home how rather than feeling forsaken, he felt a calm reassurance that God had spared his life. In honor of God he asked his son to make him a cross out of metal so he could hang it over the door of his house.

This cross he says is very significant for him because each time he crawls into his house on his two hands he is reminded of God's mercies and grace in his life. He recounts that there were sad days when he didn't have much help to do work around his house but the cross above his door reminded him that no matter what is happening presently, he is never forsaken by his God.

Like Mr. Richards, we are never forsaken as we live our lives from day to day. We will have challenges and setbacks, heartbreak and rough times, but may the picture of the cross remind you of Jesus' sacrifice for the sins of humanity. Amen.

The Prayer of Commitment

WE LEAVE WITH THE POWER OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS

*Closing Song: "Oh, to See the Dawn/The Power of the Cross"

1 Oh to see the dawn of the darkest day
Christ on the road to Calvary
Tried by sinful men torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood

Chorus 1

This the pow'r of the cross
Christ became sin for us
Took the blame bore the wrath
We stand forgiven at the cross

2 Oh to see the pain written on Your face
Bearing the awesome weight of sin
Ev'ry bitter thought ev'ry evil deed
Crowning Your bloodstained brow *Chorus 1*

3 Now the daylight flees now the ground beneath
Quakes as its Maker bows His head
Curtain torn in two dead are raised to life
Finished the vict'ry cry *Chorus 1*

4 Oh to see my name written in the wounds
For through Your suffering I am free

Death is crushed to death life is mine to live
Won through Your selfless love

Chorus 2

This the pow'r of the cross
Son of God slain for us
What a love what a cost
We stand forgiven at the cross

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Benediction

