

Prayers for Others

O God, we know with grief that we are there in your story. We, too, betray you when things become hard or costly.

Silent reflection

For our every betrayal, forgive, us Jesus Christ.

Forgive us and restore us to life this day

We too, turn our faces away from those suffering injustices.

Silent reflection

For our every participation in injustice, forgive us, Jesus Christ.

Forgive us and restore us to life this day

Sometimes it is hard to be good.

We make mistakes and we forget who we should be.

Silent reflection

We are sorry, Jesus Christ

Forgive us and restore us to life this day

We, too, are part of the violence and abuse suffered by the innocent.

Silent reflection

For our every silence in the face of violence to others, forgive us Jesus Christ

Forgive us and restore us to life this day.

Death is dealt in the name of our nations, O God, death in war, death through need and starvation and death through tyrants of oppression.

Silent reflection

For everything of death which is done in our name, forgive us Jesus Christ

Forgive us and restore our life this day.

For we bow in grief before your goodness.

Jesus cries out into the world that we are forgiven.

On this day of all days, we are forgiven

Thanks be to God. 3.

Closing Responses & Blessing

Go silently from here blessed by the company of God, who dies rather than leave us alone.

Go blessed by the faithfulness of Christ, who chooses life in the face of death, and go as those who stay with the truth, even as we wait for Easter Day. 3.

Bless us and the people we meet along the way

Father,

Son

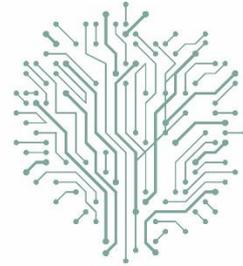
and Holy Spirit. **Amen**

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1. McRae-McMahon D. 2007. Page 84. Liturgies for high days

2. Wild Goose Worship Group 2009. Page 16. Stages on the way

3. McRae-McMahon D. 2007. Page 93-95. Liturgies for high days



SALTBUSH

UNITING THE SCATTERED COMMUNITY

Simple worship for the scattered Christian community

Mark 14: 1-15: 47
Good Friday

Welcome

An opportunity to welcome people to the gathering

Responses & Gathering Prayer

Come to us this day in a new way, Jesus Christ. Come as the one who is not afraid of anything in human life.

Come as the brave Christ who stays in the tombs of our life, and who walks towards violence and hate with a soul which shrinks from nothing.

Come and convince us again that, whatever we may fear, we cannot kill our God. 1.

Amen.

The Word around the Bush

Mark 14: 1-31

Jesus anointed and eats the Passover meal

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Give and Take](#)

Acknowledgment: [Mark: Illustrated Gospel Project](#). Malcom Gordon 2017.

<https://malcolmgordon.bandcamp.com/track/give-and-take-mark-14-43-65>

Words for reflection

On the day, the world changed – dark skies of violence and hate covered our long held imaginings of good.

On that day, the world changed – cold spread abroad in fearful hearts as though the sun might never rise again.

On that day, the world changed – and love lay there with life poured out dead with injustice, and dead as life became of less worth than power.

On that day, Good Friday, the world was changed forever. 1.

The Word around the Bush

Mark 14: 32-72

Jesus prays and is arrested

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [To Intercede](#)

Acknowledgment: [Mark: Illustrated Gospel Project](#). Adrian Taylor & Malcom Gordon 2017.

<https://malcolmqordon.bandcamp.com/track/to-intercede-mark-14-32-42>

Words for reflection

It was on the Friday
that they ended it all.

Of course,
they didn't do it one by one.
They weren't brave enough.
All the stones at the one time
or no stones thrown at all

They did it in the crowds ...
in crowds where you can feel safe
and lose yourself
and shout things
you would never shout on your own,
and do things
you would never do
if you felt the camera was watching you.

It was a crowd in the church that did it,
and a crowd in the civil service that did it,
and a crowd in the street that did it,
and a crowd on the hill that did it.

And he said nothing.

He took the insults,
the bruises,
the spit on the face,
the thongs on the back,
the curses in the ears.
He took the sight of his friends turning away,
running away.

And he said nothing.

He let them do their worst
until their worst was done,
as on Friday they ended it all ...
And would have finished themselves
had he not cried,
"Father, forgive them ..."

And then began the revolution. 2.

The Word around the Bush

Mark 15: 1-47

Jesus crucified, dead and buried

Music for Reflection

Suggested song: [Re-Membering Grief](#)

Acknowledgment: [Mark: Illustrated Gospel Project](#). Rosemary Dewerse 2017.

<https://malcolmqordon.bandcamp.com/track/re-membering-grief-mark-15-40-41>

The Message

From your Scattered Community Minister or another leader
within your gathering.

Questions for conversation

- I wonder what you have heard and thought from the Word today?
- I wonder what you heard in the Word for our church?
- What one action can you or your church take in response to the Word today?

Silence in Two Ways

Spend some time in silence sitting still (suggested 5 minutes). Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert.

● You may like to say the prayer phrase "Mar-an-ath-a" (which means come Lord). Say this as four syllables. Do not try to think or imagine anything. If thoughts or distractions come simply return to saying the word.

● Or you may like "sitting with God" — a silent time in which we focus all our mind, heart and soul on the presence of God without trying to create it. Simply be still and open to God.