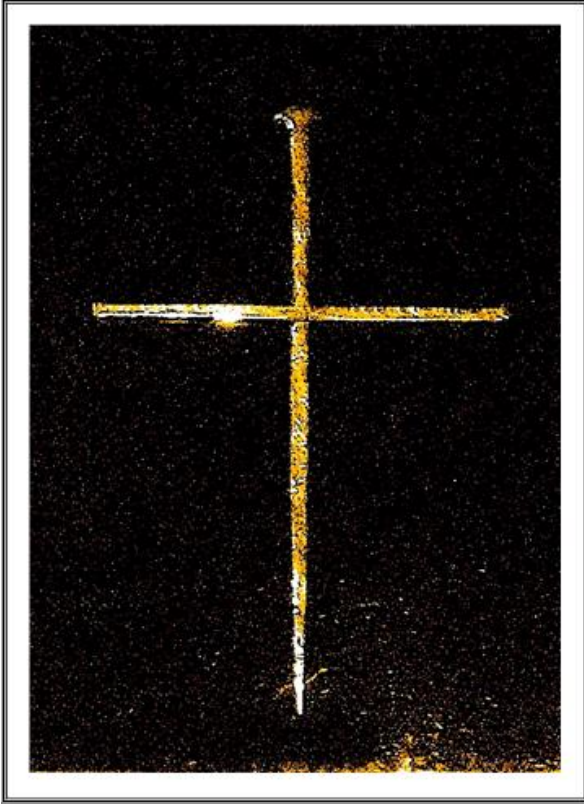


Open To The Light
ST Catherines
ANGLICAN CHURCH



Good Friday
April 3, 2026 at noon

*Cover image:
Cross of Nails from Coventry Cathedral*

Photograph by Heather Luccock.

A **Coventry Cross of Nails** (in German, *Nagelkreuz von Coventry*) is a Christian cross made from iron nails, employed as a symbol of peace and reconciliation. The original version was made from three large medieval nails salvaged from Coventry Cathedral after the building was severely damaged by German bombs on 14 November 1940. In the following decades, several hundred crosses have been given as gifts to various organisations, including churches, prisons and schools. The form of the cross echoes Christ's crucifixion and the nails with which he was affixed to the cross.

The Cross of Nails prayer, also known as the *Litany of Reconciliation*, is a prayer for forgiveness and reconciliation, inspired by the Coventry Cross of Nails, a symbol of peace and reconciliation. The prayer specifically addresses sins and failings, asking for forgiveness for hatred, prejudice, and indifference, with the response "Father, forgive." The words echo the prayer of Jesus as he hung dying on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." This simple prayer, "Father, forgive," acknowledges our need to receive forgiveness from God for ourselves, as well as ask it for others.

This cover picture, together with a painting in the chapel by Heather Luccock of the cross amid the ruins of Canterbury Cathedral, provide points of focus for our meditations on this Good Friday.

*On this most solemn day,
please keep the mood of silence and reflection
as the music plays.*

WELCOME

The Rev. Sarah Lehman

Presider All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned every one to our own way,

***People* And the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.**

Presider Christ the Lord became obedient unto death,
***People* even death on a cross.**

Silence is kept.

Presider Almighty God,
***All* our heavenly Father,
we have sinned
in thought and word and deed;
we have not loved you
with our whole heart;
We have not loved our neighbours
as ourselves.
We pray you of your mercy,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

**People O Holy and Immortal One,
hear us as we pray through Jesus,
our high priest:
heal all our divisions,
reconcile all who are estranged,
console all who suffer,
and finally raise up to new life
all that is bound by death. Amen.**

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH (ISAIAH 52:13 – 53:12)

Read by Gordon Lee

See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.
Just as there were many who were astonished at him
—so marred was his appearance,
beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—
so he shall startle many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.

Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.
When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.
Out of his anguish he shall see light;
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.
Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

PSALM 22

Presider *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?*

People 1 O my God, I cry in the daytime,
but you do not answer;
by night as well, but I find no rest.
Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

All ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

People 2 Our forefathers put their trust in you;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.
But as for me, I am a worm and no man,
scorned by all and despised by the people.

All ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

People 1 All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
"He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

All ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

People 2 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb,
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.
I have been entrusted to you
ever since I was born;
you were my God
when I was still in my mother's womb.

All ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

People 1 Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.
Many young bulls encircle me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

All ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

People 2 They open wide their jaws at me,
like a ravening and a roaring lion.
I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint;
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

People 1 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd;
my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

People 2 Packs of dogs close me in,
and gangs of evildoers circle around me;
they pierce my hands and my feet;
I can count all my bones.

All ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

People 1 They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them;
they cast lots for my clothing.

All ***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?***

Pause. Silence is kept.

Presider *Be not far away, O Lord;
you are my strength; hasten to help me.*

People 1 Save me from the sword,
my life from the power of the dog.

People 2 Save me from the lion's mouth,
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

People 1 I will declare your name to my brethren;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.
Praise the Lord, you that fear him;
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

People 2 For he does not despise nor abhor
the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them;
but when they cry to him, he hears them.

All ***My praise is of him in the great
assembly;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those who worship him.***

Presider *The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him:*

All ***"May your heart live for ever!"
All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall bow before him.***

Presider *For kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations.*

All ***To him alone all who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.***

Presider *My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.*

All ***They shall come and make known
to a people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done.***

THE GOSPEL OF THE PASSION ACCORDING TO JOHN

John 18:1 –19:42

Chanted by the Rev. Sarah Lehman

Please sit for the first part of the Passion story.

Please rise, in body or in spirit, after Jesus is handed over to be crucified.

The words "the Jews" in the Gospel according to John apply to particular individuals and not to the whole Jewish people.

Insofar as we ourselves turn against Christ, we are all responsible for his death.

HOMILY

The Rev. Sarah Lehman

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

THE CROSS OF NAILS PRAYER/ LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race,
class from class,

Father, forgive.

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is
not their own,

Father, forgive.

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays
waste the earth,

Father, forgive.

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

Father, forgive.

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless,
the refugee,

Father, forgive.

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and
children,

Father, forgive.

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

Father, forgive.

*Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one
another, **as God in Christ forgave you.***

The Lord's Prayer

Presider Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom
in the words our Saviour Christ has taught us:

All **Our Father in heaven,**
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS

Presider Christ our Lord became obedient unto death.
People Come let us worship.

You are invited to come forward, as you are ready, and bring the stone you received at the beginning of the service, to lay it at the foot of the cross as a symbol of the burdens, sin, or grief that you leave in God's care.

There are many ways to pray silently at the cross: kneeling, standing, touching the cross, or even fully prostrate on the floor.

Please take all the time you need.

The service concludes with the following prayer, without an "Amen".

Presider Pour down your abundant blessing, O Lord,
 upon us, your people,
 as we carry with us the memory
 of the death of your Son,
 in the sure and certain hope of resurrection.
 Grant us pardon and peace;
 strengthen our faith
 and give us the assurance of eternal salvation.
 We ask through Christ Our Lord.

*No blessing or dismissal is added.
Please keep silence as you leave the church building.
You are welcome to remain in the church for prayer
or to meditate at the Garden of Repose in the chapel.*



Thank you for ministering today

Presider & Preacher	The Rev. Sarah Lehman
Reader	Gordon Lee
Greeters	Marthe Duncombe and Gillian Holland
Shadow boards	Marion Porter and Ashkon Vahedi
Garden of Repose	Bonnie Grundy
Altar Guild	Susana Wensley
Livestream	Ashkon Vahedi



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