

# Passiontide Promise

Daily Morning Prayer During the Last Two Week of Lent



St Mary's LINTON

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Rooted in God. Rooted in Community



*On Friday - reflection by Cathy*

*O, dearly, dearly has he loved, and we must love him too,  
And trust in his redeeming blood, and try his works to do (C F Alexander)*

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Let your ways be known upon earth,

**your saving power among the nations.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief  
your only Son was lifted up  
that he might draw the whole world to himself.  
May we walk this day in the way of the cross  
and always be ready to share its weight,  
declaring your love for all the world.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom;**

(Taizé community)

*Friday Part of Psalm 69 and a reading from Romans*

1 Save me, O God,   
for the waters have come up, even to my neck.

2 I sink in deep mire where there is no foothold;   
I have come into deep waters and the flood sweeps over me.

3 I have grown weary with crying; my throat is raw;   
my eyes have failed from looking so long for my God.

4 Those who hate me without any cause   
are more than the hairs of my head;

5 Those who would destroy me are mighty;   
my enemies accuse me falsely:  
must I now give back what I never stole?

6 O God, you know my foolishness,   
and my faults are not hidden from you.

7 Let not those who hope in you  
be put to shame through me, Lord God of hosts;   
let not those who seek you be disgraced because of me,  
O God of Israel.

8 For your sake have I suffered reproach;   
shame has covered my face.

9 I have become a stranger to my kindred, ♦  
an alien to my mother's children.

10 Zeal for your house has eaten me up; ♦  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

11 I humbled myself with fasting, ♦  
but that was turned to my reproach.

12 I put on sackcloth also ♦  
and became a byword among them.

13 Those who sit at the gate murmur against me,   
and the drunkards make songs about me.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners  
Christ died for us.

*Romans 5.6-8*

Reflection



## Reflection 3.4.20

The stations of the cross is a relative new concept to me – having grown up in a very different tradition.

But this year in particular it is good to have some structure and focus during Passiontide.

Today the station is Simon of Cyrene carries the cross.

What do we know about Simon?

- He is mentioned only 3 times - in Matthew, Mark and Luke very briefly as the man who was sized from the crowd and forced to carry the cross
- Condemned prisoners had to carry their own crosses to the execution site, and as Jesus weakened from the beatings he received was physical unable to carry it any further
- Simon was from Cyrene in north Africa, probably one of the 1000s of Jews visiting for the Passover, he is often depicted as a dark skinned African
- It was nearly 900 miles between Cyrene and Jerusalem, the journey would have taken several weeks
- We can be sure that Jesus was grateful to Simon for providing some relief during the passion
- Simon was also part of the plan in helping Jesus reaching his goal of redeeming humanity by his suffering and death
- Luke's version - "after laying the cross on him, they made him carry it **behind** Jesus"
- from what we know from Roman crucifixions it seems likely only the transverse beam was carried as the vertical beam was already at the crucifixion site. Paintings often show the whole cross.

Carrying our cross is quite a familiar concept to Christians, we tend to associate it with physical ailments or challenges, difficulties, illness or distress. Carrying our cross is the cost of a true disciple. Mark 8 v 34 says "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Here Jesus is talking about the effort needed to follow him moment by moment to do his will even when the work is difficult, and the future looks bleak.

Simon carried the cross behind Jesus, was it a burden for Simon? We don't know. It was a surprise, not what he had expected

As we walk our Lenten journey, let's learn from Simon, who did something, simple, kind, unexpected, emotionally draining, helpful and ultimately made a difference.

I read a short article about Terry Waite yesterday who for 1763 days was a hostage in appalling conditions. His message for our present situation is, stop complaining, change your mindset, you are not stuck at home, you are safe at home. His advice is – keep your dignity get out of your pjs, form a structure to your day, be grateful for what you have, shelter, home, possessions etc. Read and be creative.

Today we are walking two journeys – Passiontide and a pandemic.

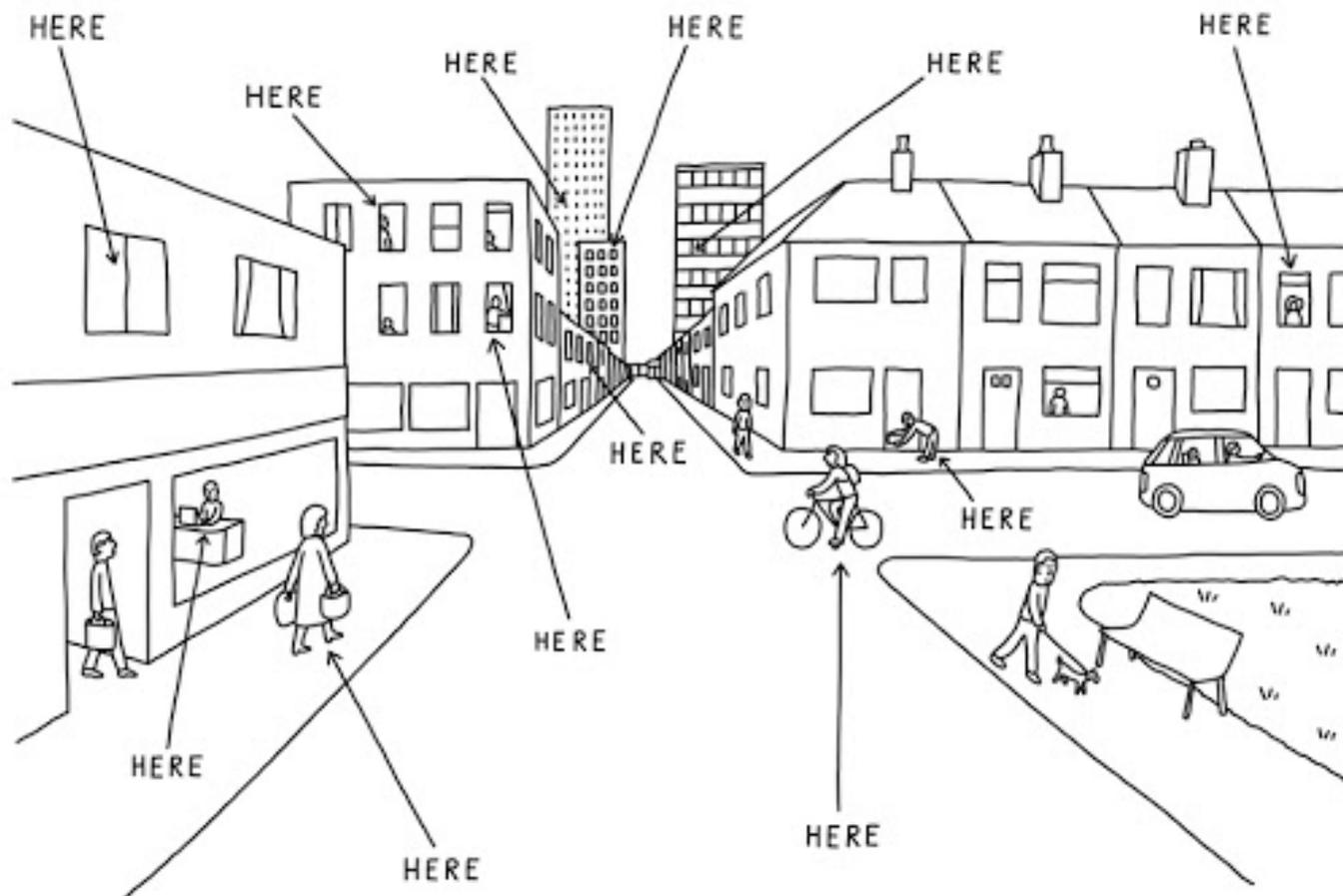
What links the 2 – the cross of Christ, carried by Simon and preached the world over.

Let's today walk closer to Christ but also be the church, be Christ to the people around us.

Like Simon we just don't know what we will be asked to do. But this cartoon from last week's Church times sums it up beautifully.

Cathy Watts

# WHERE THE CHURCH IS



Friday Week One: V Simon of Cyrene carries the cross

*In desperation on this road of tears  
Bystanders and bypassers turn away.  
In other's pain we face our own worst fears  
And turn our backs to keep those fears at bay,  
Unless we are compelled as this man was  
By force of arms or force of circumstance  
To face and feel and carry someone's cross  
In Love's full glare and not his backward glance.  
So Simon, no disciple, still fulfilled  
The calling: 'take the cross and follow me'.  
By accident his life was stalled and stilled,  
Becoming all he was compelled to be.  
Make me, like him, your pressed man and your priest,  
Your alter Christus, burdened and released.*

Malcolm Guite

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.**

We preach Christ crucified,

the power of God and the wisdom of God.

**By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

God forbid that I should glory,

save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;**

**by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6

**The word of the cross is folly  
to those who are perishing,  
but to those who are being saved  
it is the power of God.**

1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ◆  
who has come to his people and set them free.  
2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ◆  
born of the house of his servant David.  
3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ◆  
to save us from our enemies, from the hands of all that hate us,  
4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ◆  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ◆  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
6 Free to worship him without fear, ◆  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.  
9 In the tender compassion of our God ♦  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**The word of the cross is folly  
to those who are perishing,  
but to those who are being saved  
it is the power of God.**

With faith and love and in union with Christ,  
let us offer our prayer before the throne of grace.

Have mercy on your people,  
for whom your Son laid down his life:

**God of love, hear our prayer**

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,  
and have pity on those torn apart by division:

**God of love, hear our prayer**

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,  
and deliver them from evil:

**God of love, hear our prayer**

Look in mercy upon all who suffer,  
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:  
**God of love, hear our prayer**

Bring comfort to the dying,  
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:  
**God of love, hear our prayer**

Give rest to the departed  
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:  
**God of love, hear our prayer**

Let us commend the world, for which Christ died,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Collect - Week One:*

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Standing at the foot of the cross,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

*The Conclusion*

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,  
set us free to serve him with joy.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Acknowledgements:

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