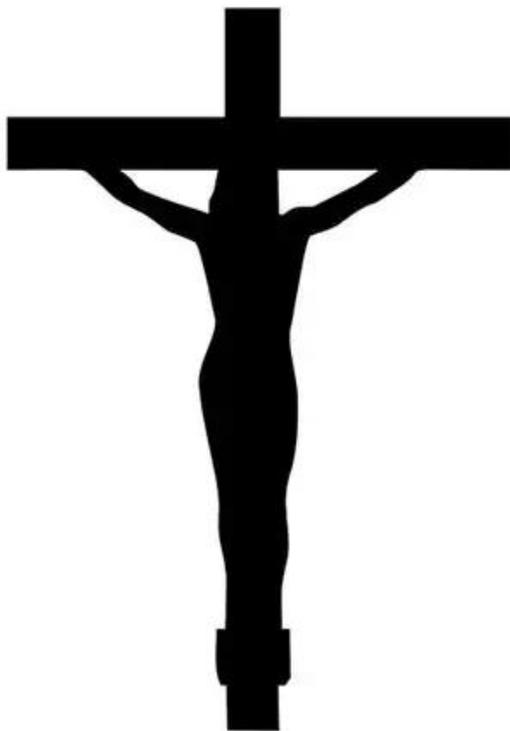




GUILDFORD
CATHEDRAL

5.30pm
3 April 2026

GOOD FRIDAY EVENSONG



WELCOME TO GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

Guildford Cathedral is a place of prayer, reflection, work and celebration; a sacred space and an open community of people who together engage with God and the wider world, for the common good. It is a focus and resource for the whole community; a place of daily choral worship, a space for stillness and prayer, a place of pilgrimage and a venue for concerts, art and education.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year.

The church remains stripped of all decoration; the pulpit and the altar are bare; no candles are lit. Evensong on this day is shorter and simpler than usual; we begin and depart in silence, and there are no announcements.

PARTICIPATION IN THE SERVICE

We say together the words in **bold** type. Although posture is suggested please do whatever is most comfortable for you. **A large print copy of this order of service is available from the stewards.**

The service is sung by the Cathedral Choir, directed by the Sub Organist, Asher Oliver.

CANTICLES

Short service *Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623)*

OFFICIANT

The officiant this evening is The Very Reverend Bob Cooper, Dean of Guildford

All stand as the choir and ministers enter in silence.

Sit

PSALM 130

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord :

Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well :

the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark what is done amiss :

O Lord, who may abide it?

For there is mercy with thee :

therefore shalt thou be feared.

I look for the Lord; my soul doth wait for him :

in his word is my trust.

My soul fleeth unto the Lord :

before the morning watch, I say, before the morning watch.

O Israel, trust in the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy :

and with him is plenteous redemption.

And he shall redeem Israel :

from all his sins.

Chant: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

PSALM 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and consider my desire :

hearken unto me for thy truth and righteousness' sake.

And enter not into judgement with thy servant :

for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.

For the enemy hath persecuted my soul;

He hath smitten my life down to the ground :

he hath laid me in the darkness,

as the men that have been long dead.

Therefore is my spirit vexed within me :
 and my heart within me is desolate.
Yet do I remember the time past; I muse upon all thy works :
 yea, I exercise myself in the works of thy hands.
I stretch forth my hands unto thee :
 my soul gaspeth unto thee as a thirsty land.
Hear me, O Lord, and that soon, for my spirit waxeth faint :
 hide not thy face from me,
 lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.
O let me hear thy loving-kindness betimes in the morning,
 for in thee is my trust :
 shew thou me the way that I should walk in,
 for I lift up my soul unto thee.
Deliver me, O Lord, from mine enemies :
 for I flee unto thee to hide me.
Teach me to do the thing that pleaseth thee, for thou art my God :
 let thy loving Spirit lead me forth into the land of righteousness.
Quicken me, O Lord, for thy Name's sake :
 and for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.
And of thy goodness slay mine enemies :
 and destroy all them that vex my soul; for I am thy servant.

Chant: Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

FIRST LESSON Lamentations 5.15-22

The first lesson is written in the fifth chapter of the book Lamentations, beginning at the fifteenth verse.

The joy of our hearts has ceased;
 our dancing has been turned to mourning.
The crown has fallen from our head;
 woe to us, for we have sinned!
Because of this our hearts are sick,
 because of these things our eyes have grown dim:

because of Mount Zion, which lies desolate;
jackals prowl over it.
But you, O Lord, reign for ever;
your throne endures to all generations.
Why have you forgotten us completely?
Why have you forsaken us these many days?
Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored;
renew our days as of old –
unless you have utterly rejected us,
and are angry with us beyond measure.

Here ends the first lesson.

Stand

MAGNIFICAT

My soul doth magnify the Lord :
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded :
the lowliness of his hand-maiden.
For behold, from henceforth :
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him :
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm :
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination
of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat :
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed, for ever.

Words: Luke 1. 46-55

Sit

SECOND LESSON John 19.38-42

The second lesson is written in the nineteenth chapter of the Gospel according to John, beginning at the thirty-eighth verse.

Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Here ends the second lesson.

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :
thy salvation,

Which thou hast prepared :
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Words: Luke 2. 29-32

THE CREED

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Sit or kneel

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.**

Sit

ANTHEM

Salvator mundi, salva nos,	<i>Save us O Saviour of the world,</i>
qui per crucem et	<i>which by Thy cross and blood</i>
sanguinem redemisti nos,	<i>hast redeemed us,</i>
auxiliare nobis, te deprecamur,	<i>help us, we beseech Thee,</i>
Deus noster.	<i>O our God.</i>

Words: Antiphon at Holy Unction, BCP "Cantiones Sacrae" 1575

Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

The anthem is followed by a time for silent prayer and reflection.

THE COLLECT OF GOOD FRIDAY

Almighty God,
we beseech thee graciously to behold this thy family,
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed,
and given up into the hands of sinners
and to suffer death upon the cross;
who now liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

All depart in silence.

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