

CANNING GARDEN METHODIST CHURCH
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
MEDITATION ON
THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS

12.00 PM – 3.00 PM

MARCH 30, 2018

GOOD FRIDAY

They shouted
"Crucify him
crucify him!"
Pilate asked
"Shall I crucify
your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor."
Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus;
and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to The Place of the Skull

There they
crucified him
and with him
two others,
one on either
side with Jesus
between them.
Pilate also had
an inscription
written and put
on the cross.
It read "Jesus
of Nazareth, the
King of the Jews."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Andrew Tan

L: We gather here to worship God.

C: **We gather to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us
and to thank God for His love and mercy.**

L: Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

C: **He grew up before God like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.**

L: He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him,
nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.
He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

C: **Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised,
and we esteemed Him not.**

PRAYER

Almighty God, Your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that He might draw the whole world to Himself. Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in His call to take up our cross and follow Him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

FIRST WORD

12.05noon – 12.25pm

MUSIC PRELUDE

SILENT MEDITATION

Luke 23: 33 - 34

When they came to the place called "The Skull", they nailed Jesus to the cross there, and the two criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said "Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing."

PRAYER

Merciful God, as we remember how Your Son Jesus bore our sins in His body on the cross, how seven times He spoke, seven words of love, we ask You to bless our hearing.

As we recall how all three hours His silence cried for mercy on the souls of all, we ask You to help us to understand the mystery of Your love, and make us into a people who are ever more worthy of it. Amen.

HYMN

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus (Sing 2x)

UMH 349

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 23: 32 – 38

Dr. Wong Lai Yin

MEDITATION

**“Father, Forgive Them
For They Know Not What They Do”**

Rev. Dr. Andrew Tan

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Gracious Lord Jesus, it's easy for me to speak of Your forgiveness, even to ask for it and to thank You for it. But do I really believe I'm forgiven? Do I experience the freedom that comes from the assurance that you have cleansed me from my sins? Or do I live as if I'm "semi-forgiven"? Even though I've put my faith in You and confessed my sins, do I live as if sin still has power over me? Do I try to prove myself to You, as if I might be able to earn more forgiveness?

Dear Lord, though I believe at one level that You have forgiven me, this amazing truth needs to penetrate my heart in new ways. Help me to know with fresh conviction that I am fully and finally forgiven, not because of anything I have done, but because of what You have done for me. May I live today as a forgiven person, opening my heart to You, choosing not to sin because the power of sin has been broken by You on the cross. All praise be to You, Lord Jesus, for Your matchless forgiveness! Amen.

* HYMN

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

SILENT MEDITATION

SECOND WORD

12.30pm – 12.50pm

MUSIC PRELUDE

SILENT MEDITATION

Luke 23: 39 - 43

One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying: "Don't you fear God? Here we are all under the same sentence. Ours, however, is only right, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!" Jesus said to him, "I tell you this: Today you will be in Paradise with me."

PRAYER

Merciful Father, these words of Jesus, "Today you shall be with Me in paradise" reminds us anew that we are welcome there not because we have right theology, and not because we are living rightly, but because You are merciful and we have put our trust in Jesus alone. Help us this day in our inability to put our lives completely into Your hands. Amen.

HYMN Just As I Am (Verses 1, 2, 3 and 5 only) UMH 357

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 23: 39 – 43 Ms. Tham Lai Meng

MEDITATION **"Verily I Say Unto You,** Rev. Dr. Timothy Ong
Today Thou Shalt Be With Me in Paradise

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Lord Jesus, how I wonder at Your grace and mercy! When we cry out to You, You hear us. When we ask You to remember us when You come into Your kingdom, You offer the promise of paradise. Your mercy exceeds anything we might imagine. It embraces us, encourages us, heals us.

O Lord, though my situation is so different from the criminal who cried out to You, I am nevertheless quite like him. Today I live, trusting You and You alone. My life, now and in the world to come, is in Your hands. And so I pray: Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom! Jesus, remember me today as I seek to live within Your kingdom! Amen.

* HYMN Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior UMH 351

SILENT MEDITATION

FOURTH WORD

1.20pm – 1.40pm

MUSIC PRELUDE
SILENT MEDITATION

Mark 14: 33 - 34

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Elo-i, elo-i, lama sabach-thani?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, You have put up with so much for us. How great Your despair must have been that day as You experienced the excruciating pain of being separated from Your Father because of our sins. Thank You that through Your experience of our emptiness and desolation, we are given a glimpse of Your hope; and through Your dying, we are offered the chance of reconciliation with God our Father. Amen.

HYMN Fill My Eyes (Sing 2x)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 27:45-54 Mrs. Wan Ching Peter

MEDITATION **“My God, My God,
Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me”** Rev. Anna Ng

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

O Lord Jesus, though I will never fully grasp the wonder and horror of Your abandonment by the Father, every time I read this "word," I am overwhelmed with gratitude. How can I ever thank You for what You suffered for me? What can I do but to offer myself to You in gratitude and praise? Thank you, dear Lord, for what You suffered. Thank you for taking my place. Thank you for being forsaken by the Father so that I might never be. Amen.

* HYMN When I Survey the Wondrous Cross UMH 298

SILENT MEDITATION

FIFTH WORD

1.45pm – 2.05pm

MUSIC PRELUDE

SILENT MEDITATION

John 19: 28

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst."

PRAYER

Merciful Lord, as You were suffering for the sin of Israel, even as You were taking upon Yourself the sin of the world, You suffered more than a physical thirst. On the cross, forsaken by the Father, You were thirsty for Him, You who have never been separated from God the Father. Oh how much You suffered on our behalf. Thank You and thank You.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

UMH 286

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 19: 28 – 29

Mrs. Priscilla Ebernesan

MEDITATION

"I Thirst"

Rev. Richard Leow

PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Dear Lord, in Your words "I am thirsty" I hear the cry of my own heart. I too am thirsty, Lord, not for physical drink. I don't need sour wine. Rather, I need the new wine of Your kingdom to flood my soul. I need to be refreshed by Your living water. I yearn for Your Spirit to fill me once again. I am thirsty, Lord, for You. Amen.

* HYMN

Spirit of the Living God, Fall Afresh on Me

UMH 393

SILENT MEDITATION

SEVENTH WORD

2.35pm – 2.55pm

MUSIC PRELUDE

SILENT MEDITATION

Luke 23: 46

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

PRAYER

Thank You, merciful God, that for our sake, You left the majesty of heaven, and entered into all that life means to us, that we might find our place in the heaven of Your love. Thank You, O my Father, thank You. Amen.

HYMN

King of Kings, Majesty

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 23: 44 - 49

Mr. Sum Kwan Hoo

MEDITATION

**“Father, Into Thy Hands
I Commend My Spirit”**

Rev. Dr. Andrew Tan

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Gracious Lord, even as You once entrusted Your spirit into the hands of the Father, so I give my life to You. I trust You, and You alone to be my Savior. I submit to Your sovereignty over my life, and seek to live for Your glory alone. Here I am, Lord, available to You, both now and in the future.

How good it is to know that the cross was not the end for You. As You entrusted Your spirit into the Father's hands, You did so in anticipation of what was to come. So we reflect upon Your death, not in despair, but in hope. With Good Friday behind us, Easter Sunday is on the horizon. Amen and Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Because He Lives

UMH 364

SILENT MEDITATION