

# ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH

*Holetown, St. James, Barbados*

TO BE A BEACON RADIATING GOD'S LOVE AMONG ALL PEOPLE

## HOLY WEEK GOOD FRIDAY

### WITH THE CHILDREN

*Good Friday Devotions*

*Starting at 9:00 a.m.*

RECTOR: THE REV. CANON BEVERLEY SEALY-KNIGHT

REV. (DEACON) MICHELLE LEACOCK

# **GOOD FRIDAY DEVOTIONS**

## **WITH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL**

### **WELCOME:**

Welcome to this time of worship. As you and your family move through the service, I invite you to meditate on the words of the prayers, hymns and readings. We pray these communal experiences of worship will be a blessing to you all.

### **RECTOR: OPENING PRAYER:**

Lord Jesus,

We have gathered together on this Good Friday to seek you. Open our eyes afresh to see what you went through for us. Melt our hearts with your love that we might love you more and be willing to lay down our lives for the sake of others. For the glory of your name. *Amen.*

### **OPENING SONG: AT THE CROSS**

#### ***Chorus***

*At the cross at the cross where I first saw the light  
And the burden of my heart rolled away  
It was there by faith I received my sight  
And now I am happy all the day*

Alas! and did my Savior bleed  
And did my Sov'reign die?  
Would He devote that sacred head  
For sinners such as I?

#### ***Chorus***

Was it for crimes that I had done  
 He groaned upon the tree?  
 Amazing pity! grace unknown!  
 And love beyond degree!

***Chorus***

But drops of grief can ne'er repay  
 The debt of love I owe:  
 Here, Lord, I give myself away,  
 'Tis all that I can do.

***Chorus***

**PART 1:**

**JESUS ANOINTED AT BETHANY AND JUDAS AGREES TO  
 BETRAY JESUS**

**DRAMATIZED READING:**

Narrator: While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume.

Narrator: She poured the perfume on Jesus' head as he was reclining at the table.  
 When the disciples saw this, they were indignant.

Judas: Why this waste?

Narrator: Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked:

Judas: What are you willing to give me if I deliver

him over to you?

Narrator: So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.

Narrator: From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over.

### COMMENT:

- Jesus said, *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”* (Matthew 6:24)
- The woman in the reading was devoted to Jesus in her heart....Jesus was her master, whereas Judas who was devoted to money in his heart....money was his master.
- As a result of being devoted to Jesus, the woman **gave** her life savings to Him in the perfume she poured over His body. As a result of being devoted to money, Judas was willing to **take** thirty silver coins (approximately four months wages) in return for the betrayal of Jesus.

### ACTIVITY:

Open your paper bags and find the one dollar coin. Hold the coin in the palm of your hands and look at it for a few seconds.

We are presented with the same choice as Judas and the woman in Bethany.

- Who is our master? Who are we really devoted to?
- Is our master Jesus or money?

This morning we are going to give you an opportunity to make that choice.

- In a moment we are going to pass around collecting bags.
- You will then have a choice whether to give the dollar coin to Jesus' Kingdom work or whether to keep the money for yourself.
- No-one will be watching what you do with your dollar coin as this choice is between you and God.
- This is your chance to think about who you really serve – “Is it your master Jesus or is it money?”

## **PART 2: THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **READING:**

#### **MATTHEW 26:17-30**

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” He said, “Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover

at your house with my disciples.” So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

**COMMENT:**

The meal that Jesus and his disciples were celebrating together was the Passover meal when they remembered how God had led them out of slavery in Egypt to freedom.

- During this celebration Jesus gave a new meaning to the meal.
- He broke bread to remind them that his body would be broken on a cross and he shared wine to remind them that his blood would be shed.
- These symbols of broken bread and wine would remind Jesus' followers in the future of the freedom from the slavery of sin that Jesus won for them on the cross.

**ACTIVITY:**

Open your paper bags and take out the pita bread and grapes wrapped in foil. Then encourage them to eat the bread and grapes as a way of taking part in the "Passover meal"

**PART 3: GETHSEMANE AND JESUS IS ARRESTED**  
**READING:****MATTHEW 26:36-56**

Then Jesus went with them to a place called

Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial;<sup>[a]</sup> the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign,

saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.” At once he came up to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you are here to do.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?” At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. “But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled,

### **COMMENT:**

Jesus went through agony in the garden as he wrestled with the choice of whether or not to obey his father and be willing to die the death that we deserve.

- He chose the Father’s will over his own.
- Most of the disciples on the other hand chose to run away as soon as soldiers came to arrest Jesus.

**ACTIVITY:**

Open your paper bags and take out the prayer card and let us pray together:

**Jesus**

**thank you that you chose to obey your Father.**

**Thank you that you chose to die the death I  
deserve for my sins.**

**Help me choose to obey you in every choice I  
have to make. *Amen.***

**SONG: LEAD ME TO CALVARY**

King of my life I crown Thee now-  
Thine shall the glory be;  
Lest I forget Thy thorn-crowned brow,  
Lead me to Calvary.

***Refrain:***

*Lest I forget Gethsemane,  
Lest I forget Thine agony,  
Lest I forget Thy love for me,  
Lead me to Calvary.*

Show me the tomb where Thou wast laid,  
Tenderly mourned and wept;  
Angels in robes of light arrayed  
Guarded Thee whilst Thou slept.

**[*Refrain*]**

Let me like Mary, thru the gloom,  
Come with a gift to Thee;  
Show to me now the empty tomb-  
Lead me to Calvary.

**[*Refrain*]**

May I be willing, Lord, to bear  
 Daily my cross for Thee;  
 Even Thy cup of grief to share-  
 Thou hast borne all for me.

[*Refrain*]

## **PART 4: PETER DISOWNS JESUS**

### **DRAMATIZED READING:**

#### **MATTHEW 26:69-75**

Narrator: Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard,  
 and a servant girl came to him.

Servant 1: You also were with Jesus of Galilee

Narrator: But he denied it before them all.

Peter: I don't know what you're talking about.

Narrator: Then he went out to the gateway, where  
 another servant girl saw him and said  
 to the people there.

Servant 2: This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Narrator: He denied it again, with an oath:

Peter: I don't know the man!

Narrator: After a little while, those standing there  
 went up to Peter and said:

Man: Surely you are one of them; your accent  
 gives you away.

Narrator: Then he began to call down curses, and he

swore to them:

Peter: I don't know the man!

Narrator: Immediately a rooster crowed.  
Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

### **COMMENT:**

Peter chose to deny knowing Jesus three times because he was afraid of what might happen to him.

- He put looking after himself before following Jesus.
- We can all do the same thing as Peter.....we can deny knowing Jesus especially when we are afraid of what others think of us, or might do to us.

### **ACTIVITY:**

Open your paper bags and take out the feather. This feather is a reminder of the cockerel that crowed after Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times. Hold the feather in your hands and in a moment of silence to say sorry to Jesus for the times that you have denied knowing Him.

## **PART 5: JESUS BEFORE PILATE**

### **Matthew 27:11-26**

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them

said, "Let him be crucified!" Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

### **COMMENT:**

Pilate knew that the people had chosen to crucify a sinless man instead of a murderer.

- Instead of doing the right thing and releasing Jesus, Pilate sinned and condemned Jesus to death.
- He washed his hands as a way of trying to wash away his guilt, but guilty hearts cannot be washed clean with soap and water.

### **ACTIVITY:**

Look at the black mark on your hand that you received on your way into church.

- Let it remind you of the wrong things that you choose to do.
- Now take your thumb and see if you can remove the

mark on the back of your hand by simply rubbing it hard, like a rubber.

- You will find that it cannot be removed.
- We cannot get rid of our sin by ourselves.

## **SONG: JESUS KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS**

Jesus, keep me near the cross,  
There a precious fountain;  
Free to all, a healing stream,  
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

### ***Refrain:***

*In the cross, in the cross  
Be my glory ever,  
Till my ransomed soul shall find  
Rest beyond the river.*

Near the cross, a trembling soul,  
Love and mercy found me;  
There the Bright and Morning Star  
Shed His beams around me.

**[Refrain]**

Near the cross! O lamb of God,  
Bring its scenes before me;  
Help me walk from day to day  
With its shadow o'er me.

**[Refrain]**

Near the cross! I'll watch and wait,  
Hoping, trusting ever;  
Till I reach the golden strand,  
Just beyond the river.

**[Refrain]**

## **PART 6: THE CRUCIFIXION**

### **READING:**

#### **MATTHEW 27:32-44**

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;<sup>[a]</sup> then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided <sup>[b]</sup> him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

**COMMENT:**

Jesus hung on the cross to take the punishment for the wrong things we have done. Sin cost Jesus his life.

- God chooses to forgive us if we confess our sins to him, trusting in Jesus' sacrifice alone.

**ACTIVITY:**

Open your paper bags and take out the red blood droplet (red circle) and the pencil.

Let's take a moment of quiet and allow God to show us some of the things that we have done wrong.

- As he shows you those things, write them on your blood droplet.
- Once you have done that take your blood droplet and pin it to the cross, with the words facing into the cross.

Once everyone has taken their red blood droplet and pinned it to the cross:

- Remember God's promise in 1 John 1:9, that if they have confessed their sins, then God has forgiven them.
- In light of this promise, take the wet wipe out of your bags (and out of the cling film) and to rub off the dirty mark from the back of their hands.
- As a reminder that you are forgiven, take out the piece of white wool from your bags and tie it around their wrists.

## **PART 7: THE DEATH OF JESUS**

### **READING:**

#### **MATTHEW 27:45-54**

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land' until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

### **COMMENT:**

When Jesus died, the temple curtain that separated God's holy presence from people was torn in two from top to bottom.

- Now because of Jesus' death there is access into God's presence
- We are able to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father as the barrier of our sin has been dealt with. It is finished!

### **ACTIVITY:**

Open your paper bags and take out the piece of material. We are all going to shout at the top of our voices **"IT IS FINISHED"** as we rip the piece of material from the top to the bottom as a reminder that we can now come freely to God and enjoy knowing Him.

### **"IT IS FINISHED"**

#### **PART 8: THE BURIAL OF JESUS MATTHEW 27:57-61**

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth <sup>60</sup> and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

### **COMMENT:**

As we leave Jesus today in the tomb with a stone across it, let's finish by focusing on the love that Jesus showed us in giving up his life.

- What more could God have done to show us His love?
- Jesus himself said, *"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."* (John 15:13)

### **ACTIVITY:**

Open your paper bags and to take out the heart shaped card and the pencil.

In response to the love that Jesus has shown us, let's offer our lives afresh to Him this morning.

- If you would like to do that, write your name in the centre of the heart shaped card and during our last song come and place your heart at the foot of the cross.

### **FINAL SONG: IT IS A THING MOST WONDERFUL**

It is a thing most wonderful,  
almost too wonderful to be,  
that God's own Son should come from heaven,  
and die to save a child like me.

And yet I know that it is true:  
he chose a poor and humble lot,  
and wept, and toiled, and mourned, and died,

for love of those who loved him not.

I cannot tell how he would love  
a child so weak and full of sin;  
his love must be most wonderful,  
if he could die my love to win.

I sometimes think about the cross,  
and shut my eyes, and try to see  
the cruel nails and crown of thorns  
and Jesus crucified for me.

But even could I see him die,  
I could but see a little part  
of that great love, which, like a fire,  
is always burning in his heart.

It is most wonderful to know  
his love for me so free and sure;  
but 'tis more wonderful to see  
my love for him so faint and poor.

And yet I want to love thee, Lord;  
O light the flame within my heart,  
and I will love thee more and more,  
until I see thee as thou art.

### **RECTOR: CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord Jesus as we leave this place,  
Keep our hearts burning with gratitude and love, for all  
that you have given to us.

Enable us to walk in humble obedience with you.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son

and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.



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