



Good Friday, 2026

*Words from the Cross
A Sacred Cantata
with Reflections and Prayer.*

Between noon and 3.00pm, the hours when Jesus hung upon the cross, we keep a prayerful and reflective time.

You are welcome to remain for the entire time,
or come and go as you wish.

From Noon to 1.00pm –

Reflections focused on the stations of the cross.

From 1.00pm to 3.00pm – Words from the Cross.

This includes

Last Words – A Sacred Cantata for Good Friday

by Michael Myrick and reflections from Alister Hendery, the Acting Dean

- You are welcome, at any time, to light a prayer candle at the stand at the back of the Cathedral.
- The hymns are from *Common Praise* – the blue hymn book.
- Apart from the first hymn, we may stand to sing.



Acting Dean: *The Very Rev'd Alister Hendery*

Reader: *The Rev'd Eric Fairbrother*

Director of Music: *Anthony Tattersall*

With the Waiapu Cathedral Choir & the Cathedral Strings

Cathedral Website: *www.napiercathedral.org.nz*

Other Opportunities for worship this weekend:

Saturday 4th – Easter Eve

6.00pm: Vigil Eucharist

Sunday 5th – Easter Day:

8.00am: Said Eucharist

9.00am: Eucharist at Ormond Chapel

10.00am: Choral Eucharist

Words from the Cross

Musical Prelude...

*In silence – as we remain seated or kneeling –
a wooden cross is carried into the Cathedral.*

Three times the following is said:

This is the wood of the cross
on which hung the Saviour of the world.

We respond:

Come, let us worship.

We remain kneeling or seated as we sing:

Hymn: “When I survey the wondrous cross”

**When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God!
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See from His head, His hands, His feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down!
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

After a time of silent prayer, the priest says:

Blessed be our God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Gracious and eternal God,
look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was willing
to be betrayed into the hands of his adversaries
and to suffer death upon the cross;
and grant us to rejoice in the benefits of his passion;
through him who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**



First Word:

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)

Reading: Luke 23:32-38

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

Reflection

Cantata: *Father, Forgive Them – Sung by the Choir*

Prayer

Merciful God,
whose Son forgave even from the cross,
renew us by your grace.
When anger overwhelms us
and fear takes hold,
grant us your peace.
When forgiveness is beyond our strength,
uphold us in your steadfast love.
Free us from bitterness,
restore what is broken within us,
and lead us in the way of mercy. **Amen**

Hymn: *"There is a green hill far away"*. Common Praise 123



Second Word:

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."
(Luke 23:43)

Reading: Luke 23:39-43

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Reflection

Cantata: *Paradise – Sung by the Choir*

Prayer

Loving Jesus,
you welcomed the repentant thief
and opened to him the promise of paradise.
Open our hearts to your mercy,
heal what is wounded within us;
and free us from all that draws us away from you.
Teach us to trust in your grace,
to abide in your love,
and to walk in the way that leads to life.
Hold us in your peace,
now and at the hour of our death. **Amen**

Hymn: *"O sacred head, surrounded"*. Common Praise 120



Third Word:

"Woman here is your son... Here is your mother." (John 19:26-27)

Reading: John 19:25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Reflection

Cantata: *Woman Behold Your Son – Sung by the Choir*

Prayer

Loving Christ,
at the foot of your cross
you formed a new family of care.

In your words to Mary and the beloved disciple,
you showed a love that remains
even in the face of death.

Teach us to see the holiness of simple acts of care.
Shape us into a community
where love is practical, shared, and faithful.

Bind us together as your family –
born at the cross,
held by grace,
and called to love as you love. **Amen**

Hymn: “*At the cross her station keeping*”. Common Praise 104



Fourth Word:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
(Matthew 27:46)

Reading: Matthew 27:45-46

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?”

Reflection

Cantata: *My God. Why? – Sung by the Choir*

Prayer

God of the cross,
hold us when we feel forsaken.
When darkness closes in,
when meaning slips away and hope falters,
when we cannot sense your presence,
remind us that Christ has walked this path before us.

Into your hands we place our fears,
our grief,
our unanswered questions.

Stay with us until your light breaks through. **Amen**

Hymn: *"Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"*
Common Praise 126



Fifth Word:
"I am thirsty." (John 19:28)

Reading: **John 19:28-29**

When Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. (John 19:28-29)

Reflection

Cantata: *I Thirst – Sung by the Choir*

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
who cried from the cross, "I am thirsty,"
you know our weakness,
and share out human need.
Be with us in our hunger and thirst:
when our bodies fail,
when our spirits grow dry.
Teach us to receive help with grace,
and to offer care with compassion.
Hold our lives and our dying in your mercy,
that we may trust you in all things
and rest in your mercy. **Amen**

Hymn: *“My song is love unknown”* – Common Praise 112
(omit verse 6)



Sixth Word:

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

Reading: Luke 23:44-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last.

Reflection

Cantata: *Father Into Your Hands* – Sung by the Choir

Prayer

Loving God,
as Jesus entrusted himself to you with his final breath,
teach us to place our lives into your hands.
When fear rises within us,
when letting go is hard,
and when the future is hidden from our sight,
hold us in your steadfast love.
Help us to trust you day by day,
surrender what weighs upon us,
and to rest in the hope that your presence
in life, in death, and beyond death.
Into your hands,
we commend our spirits . **Amen**

Hymn: *“We sing the praise of him who died”*
– Common Praise 125



Seventh Word:

"It is finished." (John 19:30)

Reading: John 19:30

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished."
Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Reflection

Cantata: *It Is Finished – Sung by the Choir*

Prayer

Holy God,
in Jesus your Son,
the work of love was brought to fulfilment.
Teach us to trust the faithfulness
that carried him to the end.
When we grow weary, strengthen us.
When our work seems unfinished,
give us patience and hope.
When our lives reveal their flaws and limits,
remind us that your grace is greater.
Shape us, O God,
so that in our living and in our dying
we may reflect Christ's love.
And when our earthly journey is complete,
gather us into your mercy,
that we may rest in you and say with him:
'It is finished.' **Amen**

Kyrie – Sung by the Choir

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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.**

**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.**

Hymn: "Glory be to Jesus" – Common Praise 108

We kneel or sit

Lord Jesus Christ,
have mercy on your people
gathered at the foot of your cross.
Grant us forgiveness, renew us, strengthen our faith,
and increase in us the fullness of life.
We ask this for your love's sake. **Amen**

**You are welcome to remain in the Cathedral for prayer and
reflection.
When you leave, please do so quietly.**

