

## HOW Mission Community & KSAT Worship Service for 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021: Passion Sunday

Welcome to the service for Passion Sunday – the second Sunday before Easter, when we focus on Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, as he wrestles with His Father's call to obedience and as Jesus, alone, faces the journey to the Cross of Calvary – to become sin for us, so that we might live. Jesus, our sinless Saviour, drinks the cup of the 'wrath of God' in our place.

In *Mark 14v36* we find these words: *"Abba, Father," He said, "Everything is possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will."*

And in *Romans 8v32*, Paul says, *"He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?"*

### Prayer of Approach

We come to You, eternal God, and offer You our praise. Unsurpassed in majesty, matchless in Your holiness, You have shown unconquerable love to us in Jesus. As we contemplate His Passion, may Your Spirit guide our prayers that we may worship You sincerely and in truth: for Jesus' sake. **Amen**

### Hymn H&P 592 – Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2O\\_b\\_agrPw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2O_b_agrPw)

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the sceptre, His the throne;  
Alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone;  
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion, thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood.  
Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
Alleluia! He is near us, faith believes, nor questions how;  
Though the cloud from sight received Him, when the forty days were o'er,  
Shall our hearts forget His promise? "I am with you evermore!"  
Alleluia! Bread of Angels, here on earth our food, our stay!  
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to You from day to day:  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,  
Where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.  
Alleluia! King eternal, You the Lord of Lords we own;  
Alleluia! Born of Mary, earth Your footstool, heaven Your throne:  
You within the veil have entered, robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
Here on earth both priest and victim in the Eucharistic feast.

### Prayers of Adoration, Confession & Thanksgiving

'Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! His the sceptre, His the throne'

We come to God with our prayers of adoration:

God, our Father, we worship and adore You; You are all majesty and all might, unimaginably great, alone in power and strength; in Your love and mercy, You have redeemed us through Your Son, Jesus Christ and have given us Your Holy Spirit to be our companion and guide throughout our lives.

In Jesus Christ, all earthly powers and authorities were overcome; He triumphed over them through His death on the cross and His glorious resurrection and now He reigns in His glorious majesty with You and the Holy Spirit. We worship and adore before Your throne. **Amen**

'Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me'

We come to God with our prayers of confession:

God of compassion, with whom is great power to redeem, we acknowledge with penitence what poor disciples of Jesus we are and how slow to follow in His way.

Jesus forgave His enemies, but we are vindictive and seek revenge.

Jesus never used force to fulfil His purposes, but we want our own way whatever the cost.

Jesus was silent before His accusers, but we bluster and argue and squabble and fight. Jesus prayed fervently for strength to resist evil, but we expect painless results from feeble efforts.

Forgive us, O God. In Your abundant mercy, wash away our sins. Create in us clean hearts and put a new and right spirit within us.

We ask it in the name of Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen**

#### *Assurance of forgiveness*

Jesus says, 'Your sins are forgiven – go and sin no more. We give You our thanks for welcoming us back and for the forgiveness that greets us every time we turn back to You.

**Amen**

#### *'Thou on earth, both priest and victim, in the Eucharistic feast'*

We come to God with our prayers of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

Almighty God, we give thanks for all Your blessings, and especially, at this time, for the life on earth of Your Son Jesus Christ, who chose to endure the Cross – for our sakes and for the Father's glory. We give thanks for the truth of the great paradox that 'he who loves his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for Christ's sake shall find it'.

Make us steadfast in Your service, Lord, and may our own lives be an example to others of Your love for everyone. We ask it through Him who set His face towards Calvary – Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Reading – Romans 5 v 1-11**

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

*You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.*

### **Hymn MP 476 – My Lord, what love is this**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVgmdzQCI6U>

My Lord what love is this that pays so dearly? That I, the guilty one, may go free

*Amazing love, oh what sacrifice! The Son of God given for me*

*My debt He pays and my death He dies that I might live, that I might live.*

And so they watched Him die, despised, rejected. But oh, the blood He shed, flowed for me

And now this love of Christ shall flow like rivers. Come wash your guilt away, live again

### **Reading – Romans 8 v 31-35, 37**

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No-one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

## Reflection:

### Jesus came to save us

(from The Electric Bible)

Room prepared; disciples meet; bowl and towel; washing feet; God's plan ready to complete –  
Jesus came to save us.

Broken bread and poured out wine; Holy body, blood divine; was there ever food so fine?  
Jesus came to save us.

Midnight garden, olive wood, prayers of anguish, sweat like blood; He accepts the will of God –  
Jesus came to save us.

Priestly pride and Roman power; soldiers' lash; spectators jeer; now has come His finest hour –  
Jesus came to save us.

Wounded flesh & flowing blood; sharp the nails & rough the wood; He reveals the love of God –  
Jesus came to save us.

The wonderful truth is that 'Jesus came to save us' – you and me! In Lent we journey towards Jerusalem with Jesus – a time for confession, conviction, repentance and preparation for whatever lies ahead. As one young lady said, 'In Lent, I'm preparing my heart for Easter!' Jesus has reached Jerusalem, the Last Supper has been shared and now, among the ancient olive trees, Jesus kneels and prays to His Father.

## Reading – Mark 14 v 32-42

*They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with Him, and He began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," He said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."*

*Going a little farther, He fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from Him. "Abba, Father," He said, "everything is possible for You. Take this cup from Me. Yet not what I will, but what You will."*

*Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," He said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

*Once more He went away and prayed the same thing. When He came back, He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to Him.*

*Returning the third time, He said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"*

## Hymn MP 162 – From heaven you

came. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0FSZ\\_iSYO8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0FSZ_iSYO8)

From heaven You came helpless babe, entered our world, Your glory veiled  
Not to be served but to serve and give Your life that we might live

*This is our God, The Servant King. He calls us now to follow Him  
To bring our lives as a daily offering of worship to The Servant King*

There in the garden of tears, my heavy load He chose to bear  
His heart with sorrow was torn, 'Yet not My will but Yours, ' He said

Come see His hands and His feet; the scars that speak of sacrifice  
Hands that flung stars into space to cruel nails surrendered

So, let us learn how to serve and in our lives enthrone Him  
Each other's needs to prefer, for it is Christ we're serving

**Video– You raise me up** (with excerpts from The Passion of the Christ) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDIGspWNLU>

## Meditation – Gethsemane

*(This is a meditation for you to enter into – take your time and let God speak to you through the pictures painted)*

*‘Stay with me, remain here with me, watch and pray, watch and pray’ (Taize chant)*

Imagine you are having an evening with friends –you are having a meal together – a special meal – farewell get-together.

Look around the room –What can you see in the room? What sounds can you hear? What are you eating? What are you talking about? How are you feeling at this time of being together – and yet a time of saying farewell to one of your number?

It is a beautiful evening, and after finishing the meal – you all go for a walk to a nearby beauty spot. You have all been there before often – especially when you just needed to get away from the hustle and bustle and have a bit of peace and quiet!

Imagine that park – What can you see? What can you hear? What **can’t** you hear?

Feel the walk together calming you and hear the gentle sound of your friends talking quietly together.

After a little while wandering, almost aimlessly, in this special place – you sit down in small groups, just relaxing and enjoying the peace and one another’s company. The evening draws on, the sun is lower in the sky and conversation becomes less and quieter, people are whispering rather than talking and eventually even the whispering stops and there is silence. Thank God for the space, the peace and each other’s fellowship.



“When my love for Christ grows weak  
When for deeper faith I seek,  
Then in thought I go to thee,  
Garden of Gethsemane”

Look around the garden – at the friends nearby – resting, relaxing, even snoozing in the soft evening air, as it’s now getting late. You quietly get to your feet and slowly wander around the garden – basking in the peaceful atmosphere, feeling at one with yourself and the world!

You walk deeper into the garden, and there, there is one particular quiet secluded grove – a place you’ve been before for some peace & quiet. But someone is there before you – just one person. You turn & leave quietly & return to your friends.

“There I walk amid the shades, while the lingering twilight fades.  
See the suffering, friendless One, weeping, praying there alone”



In the quiet, we begin to think about your own life. Are there situations in our lives where we find it hard to be at peace? Situations we wish we didn’t have to face? Situations, where in spite of friends around, we feel alone?

In the silence, just tell God what is on your heart – don’t ask for anything, just tell God what is bothering you – then return your gaze to the figure in the garden.

Jesus seems to be quietly praying, but as we watch we realise He is not at peace.

Jesus prostrates Himself upon the rocky soil, clutching at the very ground for support,

He groans in distress and writhes as if in physical agony.

His usual serenity deserts Him as He, so earnestly, prays that prayer:

*‘Father, if You are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will but Yours be done’.*



Great beads of sweat appear on His face as the shattering storm engulfs His soul. Gradually His sweat turns crimson as His prayer increase in intensity. Soon, His entire body is covered in perspiration. Look at His body and see His outstretched arms. See His fists clenched in turmoil and look on anguished face. Hear Him pleading, as pictures of the cross loom before Him, stark and terrifying.

*'Father, My Father, if it is possible .... But if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done'*

Suddenly, He heaves a great sigh, shudders and is still. His body seems quieter now – and more peaceful and still – in that silent garden.

The battle is won!

Jesus does not run away from the suffering that awaits Him; He does not take the easy way out. He takes the cup placed before Him and drinks it – for you and for me – in love and obedience to His Father's will.

“In the garden Gethsemane, Christ Jesus knelt alone,  
Yet where were His disciples when he faced the cross alone?  
Eyes were heavy, sleep was easy, He was left to watch alone.  
In the garden Gethsemane, Christ Jesus knelt alone.  
'Father', He said, 'Thy will be done', Christ Jesus knelt alone;  
Then the cross for our salvation; for our sins He did atone.  
In the garden Gethsemane, Christ Jesus knelt alone.  
Now today He looks to us and to those He calls His own;  
Are we watching? Are we praying? Do we leave Him all alone?  
In the garden Gethsemane, Christ Jesus knelt alone”

Jesus took the cup placed before Him, a cup filled with the sin of the world and with our sin; a cup filled with those burdens we carry and the difficult situation we face. Jesus took the cup and He drained it, every last drop.

“There behold His agony, suffered on the bitter tree;  
See His anguish, see His faith, love triumphant still in death”

“Then I turn to life again, learning all the worth of pain,  
Learning all the might that lies, in a full self-sacrifice”

As Jesus gave Himself to His Father in that garden, He won the most amazing and complete victory – a victory He promises us and now shares with us.

*Take a few moments of silence – see Jesus praying for you and your burdens in that garden – and then thank Him for His victory*

## **Hymn H&P 538 – O the bitter shame and**

**sorrow** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBhiiZfPVkU> (music only)

O the bitter shame and sorrow, that a time could ever be  
When I let the Saviour's pity plead in vain, and proudly answered,  
'All of self and none of Thee!'

Yet He found me; I beheld Him, bleeding on the accursed tree,  
Heard Him pray, 'Forgive them, Father', and my wistful heart said faintly,  
'Some of self and some of Thee!'

Day by day His tender mercy, healing, helping, full and free,  
Sweet and strong, and, ah! So patient, brought me lower, while I whispered,  
'Less of self and more of Thee!'

Higher than the highest heaven, deeper than the deepest sea,  
Lord, Thy love at last has conquered: grant me now my supplication,  
'None of self and all of Thee!'

## Prayers of Intercession

***Ephesians 3v12***—‘In Him, and through faith in Him, we may approach God with freedom and confidence’

God of our salvation, we remember, at this time, how our Lord Jesus Christ faced suffering and death, that the glory of Your love might be revealed and draw all the world to You.  
And so, we pray for those who face suffering.

We bring to You, compassionate God, those who are ill; perhaps dreading what the future may hold or undergoing painful treatment; or frustrated by the limitations illness imposes; we pray especially for .....

God with us, in the darkness of suffering; **may the glory of Your love be revealed.**

We bring to You, compassionate God, those who are in need; the homeless, the hungry and malnourished, the lonely and unloved; we pray especially for .....

God with us, in the darkness of suffering; **may the glory of Your love be revealed.**

We bring to You, compassionate God, those who grieve: those who watch over the dying and the recently bereaved; we pray especially for .....

God with us, in the darkness of suffering; **may the glory of Your love be revealed.**

We bring to You, compassionate God, those needing forgiveness; some eaten up by guilt, others burdened with empty lives or unable to love; we pray especially for .....

God with us, in the darkness of suffering; **may the glory of Your love be revealed.**

We bring to You, compassionate God, our own suffering; our pain at falling short as Your children; our pain at seeing the pain of others; our pain embraced in the name of love; and especially .....

God with us, in the darkness of suffering; **may the glory of Your love be revealed.**

In the Name of Jesus Christ, who, by His sufferings, has brought us wholeness and joy. **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

### Hymn H&P 173 – My song is love unknown

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fnhiQnwl\\_M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fnhiQnwl_M)

My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me;  
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be:  
O who am I, that for my sake, my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
He came from Heaven's throne salvation to bestow;  
But men refused, and none the longed-for Christ would know:  
But O my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need His life did spend.  
Sometimes they strew His way and His sweet praises sing,  
Resounding all the day hosannas to their King:  
Then: 'Crucify!' is all their breath, and for His death they thirst and cry.  
Here might I stay and sing of Him, no story so divine;  
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like Thine.  
This is my friend in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

## The Grace add 3v