

Churches Together in Alresford - Stations of the Cross



In “normal times” the Alresford churches publicly proclaim their faith on Good Friday walking in witness in the town centre. Although this year we cannot do that physically together

CTIA hopes that the following will help us all to share the message that without Good Friday there is no Easter.

James Pinniger

1. A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. (Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus.) And they brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha (which means “Place of the Skull”). **Mark 15**

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Jesus, as we walk with you this morning along the way of the Cross may we see you in the people we pass, the people we meet, the people who stay with us, the people who hear your story today, the people who ignore us and pass us by in embarrassment. Fill us with the certainty of your love, the power of your Spirit and the joy of your Kingdom as we open ourselves in service to each other and to you. **Amen.**

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God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that all who believe in him may have eternal life.

(When I survey the wondrous Cross – A&M 108)

2. “Why me? Why pick on me to carry this cross? I suppose I look strong. I’m used to working outside, but even for someone as strong as me this cross is rough and heavy. I’ll have a sore back in the morning. Nothing as bad as his, though....He doesn’t look like a criminal or a trouble-maker but then, you don’t need to be; you only have to upset the Romans that’s why I didn’t argue, “Carry this cross”.....

We’re nearly there; I almost trip over him! Soldiers manhandle him and drag him to his feet; he stands, head bowed, blood dripping from a thorny crown. As they snatch the cross from my back, he lifts his head towards me, “Thank you”, he says, his eyes reflecting pain that is more than his own. I feel compelled to carry this further; not just today, but from now on.”

Heather Johnston / Canon P. Collins

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Jesus - Simon carried your cross, and was privileged to share with you the burden of salvation; May we see you and serve you in the burdens of others:
Jesus in the Hungry - to be fed. Jesus in the Thirsty - whose thirst is to be quenched. Jesus in the Naked - to be clothed. Jesus in the Homeless - to

be accommodated. Jesus in the Lonely - to be loved. Jesus in the Beggar - to be given a smile. Jesus in the Drunkard - to whom to be listened. Jesus in the Blind - to be their eyes and led. Jesus in the Dumb - for whom to speak. Jesus in the Crippled -with whom to walk. Jesus in the Prostitute - to remove from danger and befriend. Jesus in the Prisoner - to be visited and heard. Jesus in the Elderly and housebound - to be served and valued.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

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(From Heaven You came (the Servant King))

3. One of the servant girls who worked for the high priest came by and noticed Peter warming himself at the fire. She looked at him closely and said, “You were one of those with Jesus of Nazareth.” “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said, and he went out into the entryway. Just then, a cockerel crowed. When the servant girl saw him standing there, she began telling the others, “This man is definitely one of them!” But Peter denied it again. A little later some of the other bystanders confronted Peter and said, “You must be one of them, because you are a Galilean.” Peter swore, “A curse on me if I’m lying—I don’t know this man you’re talking about!” And immediately the cockerel crowed the second time. And he broke down and wept. **Mark 14**

You know me, Lord....

Who? Me? You must be joking! Whatever the rest do I’ll always stand by you;

You know me, Lord!

Who? Me? I didn’t fall asleep, maybe the others did but I just closed my eyes -

You know me, Lord!

Who? Me? With Jesus? Of course I wasn’t. You’ve made a mistake .I don’t know him.

Who? Me? I’ve told you I don’t know the man, never met him, never knew him.

Who? Me? Sound different? I’m not from Galilee. Never been there, don’t know what you mean.

And the cock crowed.

Who? Me? You still want me? Even though I denied I ever knew you? But then

You know me, Lord.

Yes, I know you. That’s why I want you to tell others that you know me.

Lord Jesus, you could have chosen anybody as the foundation of your Church, but you didn’t; you chose Peter, the one who misunderstood you, denied you, failed you again and again. Someone we might have

written off, Lord, you knew Peter, knew the calibre of the man and what would happen before the cock crowed twice. But it didn't stop you choosing him, the rock upon which your Church would be built. There is comfort for us, Lord, in Peter's frailty, reassurance that your love and confidence extends to both strong and frail as you look to our potential and in your love forget our momentary weakness.

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(My song is love unknown)

4. Soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard of the governor's headquarters (called the Praetorium) and called out the entire regiment. They dressed him in a purple robe, and they wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head. Then they saluted him and taunted, "Hail! King of the Jews!" And they struck him on the head with a reed stick, spat on him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified. When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This man truly was the Son of God!" **Mark 15**

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"My mind is forever splintered on the anvil of Time and my spirit wanders restlessly through the caverns of eternity. You ask me why? I was an ordinary Legionary in Jerusalem. One chill, windy morning we nailed a Man to a cross. (It was a routine job). He died rather soon. I remember throwing down a dice (we were gambling for his clothes, they were blood-stained) and picking-up my trusty spear that had seen me through many a skirmish in Gaul and Libya, I thrust it into his side to make certain. Water and blood trickled down the shaft gripped in my hands. I saw more - I wish I hadn't. Looking into his deathless eyes I saw his heart was broken for me."

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This is love, that you spoke words of comfort, forgave crowds screaming for your death and soldiers who made it happen; walked with the unclean and unloved, shared wisdom, brought healing into lives, and challenged the status quo. This is love. That you walked a painful road to the Cross, shared living water, outpoured your blood, and died for the sake of all.

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(Were you there when they crucified my Lord?)

5. This Child is destined to be a sign that is rejected: and you too will be pierced to the heart." Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's

sister, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on this disciple took her into his home.

Luke 2; John 19.

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Mother, son; Son, mother; From the cross, Jesus entrusted Mary his mother and John his disciple to each other's care; Help us also to care for one another and fill our homes with the spirit you share; we give thanks for those ears that listen when no-one seems to hear; for those arms that embrace us in our fear; for those feet that walk with us when the going is tough; for those shoulders for tears when life is rough...

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Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. And in him are blessed all those who look to him at the point of death; hospices, homes and hospitals, and all who care for the terminally-ill; all who mourn; all who find themselves in fearful situations; all who are displaced; all who have life-changing decisions to make...

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(There is a green hill far away - A&M 332)

6. What's good about it? Outside Jerusalem, on a hill called Calvary, three wooden crosses filled with pain and misery. Then God himself turned out the light mourning for his only Son. That day, blacker than night. The world stood still and waited. "It is finished", he cried, bowed his head in obedience and died. What's good about it? **He** is what's good about it. **Heather Johnston.**

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For Jesus, who strengthens our faith and empowers our daily lives we thank you, Father
For Jesus, who speaks to us, teaches, admonishes and encourages we thank you, Father
For Jesus, who convinces us of our worth and our uniqueness we thank you, Father
For Jesus, who enables us to share God's love in this dark world we thank you, Father
Walking with Jesus along the way of the cross, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us...
(The Lord's Prayer)

(Make way, make way for Christ the King)

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