



# St James' Old Cathedral

18<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 10:00am

Good Friday

*Service of the Passion  
including resources from  
A Prayer Book for Australia (1995) and  
Common Worship: Times and Seasons (2006)*

## Acknowledgement of Country

We worship our creator God on the ancestral lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge them as the traditional and continuing custodians of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

## Child Safety Officer

We are committed to continuous improvement in a safe culture for all, and especially vulnerable persons. Our parish's Child Safety Officer is Una Ebsworth. Una is an accredited specialist in criminal law. All correspondence and questions relating to safety checks should be forwarded to her at [safety@sjoc.org.au](mailto:safety@sjoc.org.au)

## The Old Cathedral Voices

Formed in March 2009 from some of Melbourne's finest choral soloists, The Old Cathedral Voices are a consort choir directed by Alex Ritter.

Today's singers:	Monika Harris	Eliza Bennetts O'Connor	Roslyn White
Carolyn Baker	Alex Ritter	Jenny George	Lucy Hood
Hamish Gould	Jack Jordan	Alex Gorbatov	Stewart Webb
Julien Robinson	Nick Christie	Matthew Crossley	Mike Mews

## The Organ

The present organ was built in 1991 by Australian Pipe Organs, restoring and expanding the 1866 Fincham organ. 2 manuals, 18 speaking stops, 8 couplers. Gt: 8.8.4.4.2.III. Sw: 8.8.8.4.2.III.8. Ped: 16.16.10-2/3.8.4.

The Old Cathedral's organist is David Brown. David undertook studies as an organ scholar at the Universities of Cambridge and St Andrews. He also serves as College Organist for Scotch College.

## The Bells

Melbourne's first peal of bells were the six bells hung in St James' Cathedral in 1853, replacing an old ship's bell. Two more were added in 1885. All were cast by Mears and Stainbank of Whitechapel Road, London, and are reputed to be the finest ever cast there. They are still rung regularly by a team of volunteers.

**Two Meditations on the Buried Jesus:  
“Grief goes in Circles” and “The Plundering of Death”  
Reverend Canon Matt Williams**

Perhaps the most mysterious part of Holy Week is the Sabbath. The body of Jesus lays quietly in the tomb. The narrative falls silent. Our musical meditations on this will be similarly wordless.

Though not described, it is easy to guess what was happening for those left behind: *“for they did not yet understand that he must rise from the dead”* (John 20:9). Jesus’ followers are in hopeless grief. Their Sabbath was not spent, as ours, looking forward to Sunday chocolates and hymns of triumph. They pawed away at that hollow grief that goes in circles and expects no end: what-if-ing, if-only-ing, furious and nauseous by turn, willing change on decisions that cannot be altered. Words cannot make sense of such things.

On Long Service Leave in January I spent some lazy days listening to the Nocturnes of **Gabriel Fauré**, repertoire new to me. Never ‘popular’, like those of Frederic Chopin, this music rewards patience with veiled depths. As the composer’s son Philippe put it, “They evoke the secret communion of humanity with things invisible.”

**Nocturne No. 11 in F# Minor (1913)** struck me as a particular accomplishment. It is not merely “night-music” but grief-music, even dark-night-of-the-soul music, edgily circling tolling funeral bells.

While I was exploring this repertoire, my sister’s brother-in-law, Chris Coffee – a pilot-missionary in Arnhem land - was killed in a car accident. He was 36. His vehicle collided head on with three young people speeding in a stolen vehicle. They also lost their lives.

Chris left behind a widow and three small children. Words cannot make sense of such things.

This eleventh nocturne became the music I turned to on a loop. It was consoling to hear Fauré sitting, it seemed, in the same pit. Movement without progress. Anger without accomplishment. Grief in circles.

Even when we have hope, as our family does for Chris, grief cannot - should not - be rushed. Some Sundays are still to come. Chocolate should not be force-fed.

If it is easy to guess at the human experience of those left behind, it is more difficult to say what was happening in terms of the spiritual realities. The scriptures offer some suggestive hints, but these are amongst the more difficult texts in the New Testament with a wide range of possible meanings. Are they even about Holy Saturday at all? I have written some of them in your booklets for you to ponder in your own way.

The medieval church built on these texts to speak of *The Harrowing of Hell*. I have rendered it *The Plundering of Death*, partly because it is more biblically sure-footed to say Jesus “descended to the Dead” (Hades, Sheol) than to “Hell” (Gehenna); and partly because “harrow” has changed its usual meaning in English to something more like “terrify” than “plunder”, which is what was meant.

At any rate, something big is going on, and that needs big music: *journeying music*, plunging the very depths of the piano; *military music*, freeing the captives; *victorious music*, returning unhindered to the surface, for he laid down his life in order to take it up again.

**Brahms’ Rhapsody in G Minor (1879)** fits the bill in my imagination. I hope it helps yours!

*Front Cover Picture:*

*Antonio Ciseri (1821-1891): Behold the Man (1871-91). Oil on canvas, 2920x3800. Galleria dell’Arte Moderna, Palazzo Pitti, Florence, Italy.*

**Processional**

***The Old Cathedral Voices***

**Behold the Lamb of God (Messiah)**

***G. F. Handel (1685-1759)***

*Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.*

*John 1:29*

**Sentence of Scripture**

***Canon Matt Williams***

Jesus said: "For this reason the Father loves me,

because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.

I have power to lay it down,

and I have power to take it up again."

*John 10:17-18*

"I, when I am lifted up, will draw all people to myself." *John 12:32*

**Collect**

***Canon Matt Williams***

**Eternal God,**

**in the cross of Jesus**

**we see the cost of our sin**

**and the depth of your love:**

**in humble hope and fear**

**may we place at his feet**

**all that we have**

**and all that we are,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Welcome

*Canon Matt Williams*

**Canticle (Phil 2:5-11)**

*Canon Matt Williams*

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
who existed in the form of God:

**but did not exploit his equality with God.**

Instead, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave:

**being born in the image of men.**

Being found in human form, he humbled himself:

**by becoming obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross.**

Therefore God has highly exalted him:

**and bestowed on him the name above every name,**

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth;

**and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord:  
to the glory of God the Father.**

## **Gathering for Children's Chapel**

**Rev. Anne Sells**

*We offer an age-appropriate experience of the Ministry of the Word for children, led today by Rev. Anne Sells. They are invited to process out to the conference centre, as the following anthem is sung.*

*Today we have a special Good Friday chapel which will include puppets enacted by the older children for the preschoolers. All ages welcome.*

*Childsafe Policy: Children's Chapel is supervised at all times by at least two unrelated adults with current Working with Children Check approvals.*

### **Hymn 258 (Rockingham)**

**I. Watts (1674-1748)**

**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.**

# Passion of St John

Narrator: Una Ebsworth

Jesus: Matt Williams

## **Meditation**

*The Old Cathedral Voices*

**God so loved the world**

*A. Goodwin (b. 1979)*

*World Premiere.*

*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son  
that whoever believes in him should not perish  
but have eternal life.*

*John 3:16*

**Reading:** John 18:1-14

...it was better to have one person die for the people.

## **Meditation**

*The Old Cathedral Voices*

**Surely he hath borne our griefs**

*K. Graun (1704-1759)*

*Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.*

*Isaiah 53:4*

**Reading:** John 18:15-27

...Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.



**Hymn 254 v1,2,5 (Herzliebster Jesu) J. Heermann (1585-1647)**

*All Stand to sing the hymn.*

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,  
that man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.**

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee;  
'twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee:  
I crucified thee.**

**Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,  
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving,  
not my deserving. *Please be seated.***

**Reading:** John 18:28-32

...what Jesus had said (about) the kind of death he was to die.

**Meditation *The Old Cathedral Voices***

**As Moses lifted up the serpent *E. Bairstow (1874-1946)***

*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,*

*(I, if I be lifted up...)*

*even so must the Son of Man must be lifted up,*

*(will draw all men unto me.)*

*that whosoever believeth in him should not perish*

*but have eternal life.*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son*

*that whoso believeth in him should not perish*

*but have everlasting life.*

*I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me. *Jn 3:14-16, 12:32**

**Reading:** John 18:33-38a

...Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

**Meditation**

**Jenny George (Alto)**

**The Call**

**R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)**

*Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life;*

*Such a Way as gives us breath,*

*Such a Truth as ends all strife,*

*Such a Life as killeth death.*

*Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength;*

*Such a Light as shows a Feast,*

*Such a Feast as mends in length,*

*Such a Strength as makes his guest.*

*Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart;*

*Such a Joy as none can move,*

*Such a Love as none can part,*

*Such a Heart as joys in love.*

**George Herbert (1593-1633)**

**Reading:** John 18:38b-19:16a

...(Pilate) handed him over to be crucified.

**Meditation (Aria)**

**Jack Jordan (Tenor)**

**"Thy Rebuke...Behold and See"**

**G. F. Handel (1685-1759)**

*Thy rebuke hath broken his heart: He is full of heaviness.*

*He looked for some to have pity on him,*

*but there was no man, neither found they any to comfort him.*

*Behold, and see, if there be any sorrow, like unto his sorrow.*

*Psalm 69:19-20*

*Lamentations 1:12b*

**Reading:** John 19:16b-18

...with Jesus between them.

**Hymn 255 v1,3,4 (Passion Chorale)**

***P. Gerhardt (1607-76)***

*All Stand to sing the hymn.*

**O sacred head sore wounded,  
with grief and shame weighed down;  
O kingly head surrounded  
with thorns thine only crown.  
Death's pallor now comes o'er thee,  
the glow of life decays;  
yet hosts of heaven adore thee  
and tremble as they gaze.**

**What language shall I borrow  
to praise thee, heavenly friend,  
for this thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?  
O agony and dying!  
O love to sinners free!  
Jesus, all grace supplying,  
turn thou thy face on me.**

**Be thou my consolation,  
my shield, when I must die;  
remind me of thy passion  
when my last hour draws nigh.  
Mine eyes shall then behold thee,  
upon thy cross shall dwell,  
my heart by faith enfold thee;  
who dieth thus, dies well.**

*Please be seated.*

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

...he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty".

**Meditation**

*The Old Cathedral Voices*

**Like as the hart**

*H. Howells (1892-1983)*

*Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks,  
so longeth my soul after thee, O God.*

*My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God.*

*When shall I come to appear before the presence of God?*

*My tears have been my meat day and night,*

*while they daily say unto me 'Where is now thy God?'*

*Psalm 42:1-3*

**Reading:** John 19:29-30

...'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**THE CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED. ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE.**

**Reading:** John 19:31-37

...'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

**Hymn 249 v1-4 (Picardy)**

**Venantius Fortunatus (6<sup>th</sup> C)**

*All Stand to sing the hymn.*

**Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,  
sing the last, the dead affray;  
o'er the cross, the victor's trophy,  
sound the high triumphal lay,  
how, the pains of death enduring,  
earth's Redeemer won the day.**

**When at length the appointed fullness  
of the sacred time was come,  
he was sent, the world's Creator,  
from the Father's heavenly home  
and was found in human fashion,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.**

**When the thirty years were ended  
which on earth he willed to see,  
willingly he meets his passion,  
born to set his people free;  
on the cross the Lamb is lifted,  
there the sacrifice to be.**

**There the nails and spear he suffers,  
vinegar and gall and reed;  
from his sacred body pierced  
blood and water both proceed:  
precious flood, which all creation  
from the stain of sin has freed.**

*Please be seated.*

**Reading:** John 19:38-42

...because it was the Jewish day of Preparation,  
and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**ONE MINUTE OF SILENCE.**

**Meditation: Grief goes in circles**      *Matt Williams (Piano)*  
**Nocturne No. 11 in F# Minor Op 104**   *G. Fauré (1845-1924)*

*'For as yet they did not understand the scripture,  
that he must rise from the dead.'* John 20:9

Even when we have hope  
grief cannot  
- should not -  
be rushed.

Some Sundays are still to come.

Chocolate should not be force-fed.

## **The Reproaches**

*Canon Matt Williams*

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?  
Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow  
which was brought upon me,  
which the Lord inflicted on the day of his fierce anger.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

What more could I have done for you that I have not done?  
I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard,  
I made you the branches of my vine;  
but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink,  
and pierced with a spear the side of your Saviour.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,  
and washed your feet as a sign of my love,  
but you draw the sword to strike in my name,  
and seek high places in my kingdom.  
I offered you my body and blood,  
but you scatter and deny and abandon me.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

## **Confession**

***Canon Matt Williams***

'Come, let us return to the LORD;  
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;  
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.  
After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.' *Hosea 6:1-2*

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep,  
we have followed too much  
the devices and desires of our own hearts,  
we have offended against your holy laws.  
We have left undone what we ought to have done,  
and we have done what we ought not to have done.  
Yet, good Lord, have mercy on us;  
restore those who are penitent,  
according to your promises declared in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Grant, most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may live godly, righteous and sober lives  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

***Canon Matt Williams***

God has forgiven us all our trespasses.  
He has erased the record of debt that stood against us,  
and taken it away, nailing it to the cross.  
He has disarmed the spiritual powers  
and humiliated them in public;  
triumphing over them in Christ. *Colossians 2:13b-15*



**Meditation: The Plundering of Death** *Matt Williams (Piano)*  
**Rhapsody in G Minor Op 79 No. 2** *J. Brahms (1833-1897)*

*'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;  
he gave gifts to his people.'*

*When it says, 'He ascended', what does it mean  
but that he had also descended  
into the lower parts of the earth?*

*He who descended is the same one who ascended  
far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.*  
*Ephesians 4:8b-10*

*Christ also suffered for sins once for all,  
the righteous for the unrighteous,  
in order to bring you to God.*

*He was put to death in the flesh,  
but made alive in the spirit,  
in which also he went and made a proclamation  
to the spirits in prison,  
who in former times did not obey... 1 Peter 3:18-20a*

*The gospel was proclaimed even to the dead, so that,  
though they had been judged in the flesh as everyone is judged,  
they might live in the spirit as God does.*  
*1 Peter 4:6*

*On this rock I will build my church,  
and the Gates of Death will not prevail against it.*  
*Matthew 16:18*

*Where, O Death, is your victory?  
Where, O Death, is your sting? 1 Corinthians 15:55*

*The Children's Chapel will re-join us during this hymn.*

**Hymn 257i v1-3, 6-7(Love Unknown) S. Crossman (1624-84)**

*(All Stand to sing the hymn)*

**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 his blest throne  
salvation to bestow:  
but men made strange, 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.**

**In life, no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death, no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heaven was his home;  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.     *Cont. over =>***

Here might I stay and sing,  
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.

**Closing Prayer**

**Canon Matt Williams**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
the story of your suffering is written on our hearts,  
and the salvation of the world is in your outstretched hands.  
Keep your victory always before our eyes,  
your praise on our lips,  
and your peace in our lives. **Amen.**

**Recessional**

**David Brown (Organ)**

**Choral Prelude on Rockingham**

**C. H. Parry (1848-1918)**

*Please join us for Tea & Coffee and Hot Cross Buns  
in the Conference Centre after the Service*

*Instead of collecting offertories during the service, we gratefully  
receive free offerings made at the exit, or by electronic transfers to:*

**St James' Old Cathedral**

**BSB: 013 377**

**Acc. No.: 008 684 064**

*Tax deductible giving to support our music program is also possible  
through the St James' Gift Fund:*

**Melbourne West ITF Gift Fund**

**BSB: 013 377**

**Acc. No.: 526 890 909**



## CHRISTIANITY|EXPLORED

WHAT'S THE BEST NEWS  
YOU'VE EVER HEARD?

From Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> we will be running a seven-week course for people who are curious about Jesus. This will run from 12pm-1pm after church each week. You can register interest using this QR code.



### Contact Details

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<b>Student Minister:</b>	Mr. Alex De-Leon	0481 040 243
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