



**EVENING PRAYER**  
**TUESDAY IN HOLY WEEK**  
*Walking With Christ*



Newbury, St George & St John

**Welcome to Evening Prayer in Holy Week  
with St George the Martyr Wash Common and  
St. John the Evangelist, Newbury.**

From earliest times, Christians gathered at regular hours during each day and night to respond to God's word with praise on behalf of all creation and with intercession for the salvation of the world.

Last September, the Benefice celebrated a Day of Pilgrimage, an opportunity to explore ways in which we can journey with Christ whether in a physical or metaphorical sense. The service this evening, reflects our imagined journey from the first steps of walking to Jerusalem, the agony of beginning the journey to the Cross and our walking in uncertain times.

As pilgrims, we continually journey towards the drama of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Sunday. We invite you to participate with us in this service as part of Holy Week, as it draws us back to the central truth of the Christian faith and the cross itself.

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## The Greeting

*A candle is lit:*

### WALKING TOWARDS JERUSALEM

*The officiant says:*

He will walk a little in front of us towards Jerusalem.

He will not be scared, though we are apprehensive.

We will try to dissuade him, it is to no avail.

He will stop before the city gates and weep publicly for those sheltering within its walls.

**He will not be afraid though we are doubtful.**

Then, he will go on again, in faith, into Jerusalem.

He will stop the self-assured in their tracks and enrage the righteous with his outlandish behavior.

He will scatter the silver of the money changers and take the side of the poor who are cheated.

He will break bread in the upper room and bless the cup before sharing food with a betrayer.

**He will not be afraid, though we are apprehensive.**

Then, he will go on again, in faith, towards Gethsemane.

He will ask us to watch and wait; though weary for sleep, our eyelids soon close.

He will sweat blood in his anguish and ask if there is another way; but when the decision is made...

He will receive the traitor's kiss and heal the ear of his enemy's servant.

He will not be scared though, we are now frightened,

Thy will be done he said, thy Kingdom come.

**He will not be afraid, though we have fled.**

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Loving God,  
you have led us to this place, this time,  
not to shield us from heartache  
and the pain of human life,  
but to heal us and inspire us,  
to gently redirect us,  
till we see the world as you do  
and love it with your love.

**Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

### **Psalm 55.13-24**

**Refrain: *Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.***

13 For it was not an open enemy that reviled me, •  
for then I could have borne it;

14 Nor was it my adversary that puffed himself up against me, •  
for then I would have hid myself from him.

15 But it was even you, one like myself, •  
my companion and my own familiar friend.

16 We took sweet counsel together •  
and walked with the multitude in the house of God.

17 Let death come suddenly upon them;  
let them go down alive to the Pit; •  
for wickedness inhabits their dwellings, their very hearts.

18 As for me, I will call upon God •  
and the Lord will deliver me.

19 In the evening and morning and at noonday

I will pray and make my supplication, •  
and he shall hear my voice.

20 He shall redeem my soul in peace

from the battle waged against me, •  
for many have come upon me.

21 God, who is enthroned of old,

will hear and bring them down; •  
they will not repent, for they have no fear of God.

22 My companion stretched out his hands against his friend •

and has broken his covenant;

23 His speech was softer than butter, though war was in his heart; •

his words were smoother than oil, yet are they naked swords.

24 Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you, •

and will not let the righteous fall for ever.

**Refrain: *Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you.***

***Lord, in all times of fear and dread,  
grant that we may so cast our burdens upon you,  
that you may bear us on the holy wings of the Spirit  
to the stronghold of your peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

**Glory to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Scripture reading

### Zechariah 12.10 Mourning for the Pierced One

I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

### WALKING TO THE CROSS

He will not defend himself before his accusers, and in the face of power he will remain silent.

He will accept the brutality of soldiers and the mockery of the crows but...

**He will not be afraid, though we are absent.**

Then, he will go on again, in faith, towards the cross.

He will stumble and fall, and feel the weight of our watching as he approached Golgotha.

He will feel coarse wood beneath flayed skin and sharpened nails as they drive them in...

But still, he thinks about the needs of others: his mother, friend, a lowly vagabond, and in his dying breath, for us.

**He was not afraid, though, it is us that are weeping.**

### Short Reflection

### Music Instrumental

## **WALKING IN UNCERTAINTY**

As we journey,

**Jesus meets with us, on the road.**

As we tell our stories share ourselves,

**Jesus, listens with us.**

As we stand uncertain, afraid, fearful, break through this,

**Jesus waits, ever patient with us.**

Until that moment comes in an ever familiar action,  
when we realize that the one for whom we waited has been  
present all along.

**Jesus, we walk alongside you to the Cross.**

*Adapted Paula Gooder*

## **Gospel Canticle**

The Magnificat (The Song of Mary)

Refrain:

**God's love for us is revealed  
in that, while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.**

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; •  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed; •  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him, •  
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm •  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones •  
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things •  
and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, •  
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors, •  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Luke 1.46-55**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**Refrain:**

**God's love for us is revealed  
in that, while we were yet sinners,  
Christ died for us.**

**Intercessions**

**Special Prayer for today**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we 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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **Closing Responses**

In our going out and our coming home,  
**May your footsteps guide us.**

In our waiting for you to be revealed in glory,  
**May your footsteps guide us.**

In all our travelling Lord, may it be in your footsteps that we  
place our feet and at the foot of your cross that we may find refuge.  
**May your loving arms embrace us.**

When our days are over, and the world is done,  
**May you lead us and fill all peoples, with your glory.**

**Amen.**



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