

The Last Hour Service

Good Friday

Friday 3 April 2026



THE CHURCH OF ST ANDREW, SERVING
CHARVIL, SONNING AND SONNING EYE

*The responses and prayers in **BOLD** type are said by the whole congregation*

The Gathering

We stand to sing the hymn (A&M 147)

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?

2. 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!

3. 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.

4. They rise and needs will have
My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save,
The Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he, to suffering goes,
That he his foes, from thence might free.

5. 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.

The Collect

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family
for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed
and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross;
who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
for ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were appalled at him – his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness – so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand.

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Silence is kept.

Please stand for the hymn (A&M 153)

There is a green hill far away,
Without a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

2. We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

3. He died that we might be forgiven,
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heaven;
Saved by his precious blood.

4. There was no other good enough,
To pay the price of sin;
He only could unlock the gate,
Of heaven and let us in.

5. O dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love him too;
And trust in his redeeming blood,
And try his work to do.

Please sit

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews. Hebrews 4.14-16; 5.7-9

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to feel sympathy for our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Silence is kept.

Please stand for the hymn (A&M 142)

Glory be to Jesus,

Who, in bitter pains
Poured for me the life-blood
From his sacred veins.

2. Grace and life eternal
In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion,
Infinitely kind.

3. Blest through endless ages
Be the precious stream,
Which from endless torments
Did the world redeem.

7. Lift ye then your voices;
Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder
Praise the precious blood.

4. Abel's blood for vengeance
Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus
For our pardon cries.

5. Oft as it is sprinkled,
On our guilty hearts,
Satan in confusion
Terror-struck departs.

6. Oft as earth exulting
Wafts its praise on high,
Angel-hosts rejoicing
Make their glad reply.

John 18.1 - 19.42

At the end

This is the Passion of the Lord.

No response is made.

Silence is kept.

Please stand to sing hymn (A&M 157)

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.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the cross of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3. 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!

4. His dying crimson, like a robe,
Spreads o'er his body on the tree:
Then am I dead to all the globe,
And all the globe is dead to me.

5. 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.

The Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel.

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.
Therefore we pray to our heavenly Father
for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the Church of God throughout the world:
for unity in faith, in witness and in service,
for bishops and other ministers, and those whom they serve,
and the people of this diocese,
for all Christians in this place, for those to be baptised,
for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith,
that God will confirm his Church in faith,
increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the nations of the world and their leaders:
for Charles our King and the Parliament of this land,
for those who administer the law and all who serve in public office,
for all who strive for justice and reconciliation,
that by God's help the world may live in peace and freedom.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for God's ancient people, the Jews, the first to hear his word:
for greater understanding between Christian and Jew,
for the removal of our blindness and bitterness of heart,
that God will grant us grace to be faithful to his covenant
and to grow in the love of his name.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for those who do not believe the gospel of Christ:
for those who have not heard the message of salvation,
for all who have lost faith, for the contemptuous and scornful,
for those who are enemies of Christ and persecute those who follow him,
for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified, that God will open their
hearts to the truth and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for all those who suffer:
for those who are deprived and oppressed, for all who are sick,
for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear,
for prisoners, captives and refugees, for the victims of false accusations
and violence, for all at the point of death and those who watch beside
them, that God in his mercy will sustain them with the knowledge of his
love.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us commend ourselves and all God's children to his unfailing love,
and pray for the grace of a holy life,
that, with all who have died in the peace of Christ,
we may come to the fullness of eternal life
and the joy of the resurrection.

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Choir Anthem: 'God so loved the world' - Stainer

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light,
look favourably on your whole Church,
that wonderful and sacred mystery,
and by the tranquil operation of your perpetual providence
carry out the work of our salvation: and let the whole world feel and see
that things which were cast down are being raised up
and things which had grown old are being made new
and that all things are returning to perfection
through him from whom they took their origin,
even Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please stand to sing (A&M 156)

We sing the praise of him who died,
Of him who died upon the cross;
The sinner's hope let men deride,
For this we count the world but loss.

2. Inscribed upon the cross we see
In shining letters, 'God is love';
He bears our sins upon the tree;
He brings us mercy from above.

3. The cross! It takes our guilt away:
It holds the fainting spirit up;
It cheers with hope the gloomy day,
And sweetens every bitter cup.

4. It makes the coward spirit brave,
And nerves the feeble arm for fight;
It takes its terror from the grave,
And gilds the bed of death with light:

(verse 5 overleaf)

5. The balm of life, the cure of woe,
The measure and the pledge of love,
The sinner's refuge here below,
The angels' theme in heaven above.

The Proclamation of the Cross

Please kneel.

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.

O my people, O my Church, what have I done to you, or in what have I
offended you? Testify against me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt,
and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross
for your Saviour.

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

I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna.
I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body,
the bread of heaven, but you prepared a cross for your Saviour.

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.

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you have led me to the
judgement hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a
land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked and beaten me.
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock, but you have given me
gall and left me to thirst.

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

I gave you a royal sceptre, and bestowed the keys of the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have hanged me on the cross.

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.

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counsellor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing.

Holy God,

holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.

Holy God,

holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.

Standing at the foot of the cross, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come;

thy will be done;

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

the power and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

We remain kneeling to sing the hymn (A&M 181)

O sacred head, surrounded

By crown of piercing thorn!
O bleeding head, so wounded,
So shamed and put to scorn!
Death's pallid hue comes o'er thee,
The glow of life decays;
Yet angel-hosts adore thee,
And tremble as they gaze.

2. Thy comeliness and vigour
Is withered up and gone,
And in thy wasted figure
I see death drawing on.
O agony and dying!
O love to sinners free!
Jesu, all grace supplying,
Turn thou thy face on me.

3. In this thy bitter passion,
Good Shepherd, think of me
With thy most sweet compassion,
Unworthy though I be:
Beneath thy cross abiding
For ever would I rest,
In thy dear love confiding,
And with thy presence blest.

Silence is kept as the Ministers and Choir leave.