

# A Seasonal All Age Worship Service

(SAAW004)

## Good Friday

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ALL AGE WORSHIP  
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## GOOD FRIDAY

### Service Aim:

To enable all ages to engage with the events of Good Friday in a multi-sensory way.

### Notes:

There are a lot of different parts to this service and so the comments during each section need to be kept short. As written the service takes approximately an hour.

The service is built around a number of objects in a paper bag, which each worshipper is given on the way in. It therefore requires planning and preparing well ahead of time.

### Biblical Reference(s):

Matthew 26:6-16, 17-30, 36-56, 69-75, 27:11-26, 32-44, 45-54, 57-61

### Outline of Service

- On the door: People given bags for the service and a mark on the back of their hands
- Welcome: Introduce the theme
- Opening Prayer:
- Opening song(s): Song(s) to draw people into worship (See Appendix 1)
- Part 1: Jesus anointed at Bethany and Judas agrees to betray Jesus
- Dramatized Reading, Comment and Activity
- Part 2: The Lord's supper
- Film clip, Comment and Activity
- Part 3: Gethsemane and Jesus is arrested
- Reading, Comment and Activity
- Song: A song about God's love in sending Jesus (See Appendix 1)
- Part 4: Peter disowns Jesus
- Dramatized Reading, Comment and Activity
- Part 5: Jesus before Pilate
- Film clip, Comment and Activity
- Song: A song about the need for Jesus' blood to be shed (See Appendix 1)
- Part 6: The Crucifixion
- Reading, Comment, Activity and Prayer
- Part 7: The death of Jesus
- Reading, Comment and Activity
- Part 8: The Burial of Jesus
- Film clip, Comment and Activity
- Final songs: A song of offering ourselves (See Appendix 1)
- Prayer

## Notes for the service:

General notes and instructions for the service are in black font.

**Prayers or responses said by the congregation together are in bold purple font.**

The full script of a talk or other activity is in purple font.

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## Before the service:

Before the service takes place white paper bags containing the various items needed during the service are prepared. Each member of the congregation ie, both adults and children, will need a filled bag. Stuck on the outside of the paper bag is a cross sticker saying: "Good Friday". (The template of the cross sticker can be found in Appendix 2.) The white paper bags are sealed with a tiny sticker at the top of them.

Details of where to purchase the white paper bags and the stickers and all the various items needed for inside the bag are shown below:

- 1) White paper bag: One small paper bag (approximately 7"x9"x3.5") is needed for each person. These can be bought online at ebay<sup>1</sup>. Simply put "White kraft paper carrier bags takeaway food" into the search button and a number of options will come up.
- 2) Stickers for bags: One tiny sticker (to seal the bags) and one larger sticker (with the cross picture on it) is needed for each bag. A variety of "Avery labels" can be purchased on Amazon<sup>2</sup>.
- 3) A coin: A one pound coin is needed for each bag.
- 4) Pitta bread and grapes: A small piece of pitta bread and two black washed grapes wrapped up in a piece of tinfoil are needed for each bag.
- 5) Prayer card: One prayer card is needed for each bag. A template for this can be found in Appendix 3.
- 6) Feather: One coloured feather is needed for each bag. These can be purchased on ebay. Simply put "Bag of assorted coloured duck quill feathers" into the search button and a number of options will come up.
- 7) Red circle of card: One red card circle is needed for each bag. You can either cut out these red card circles yourself (diameter approximately 6cm) or you can purchase the red card circles on ebay. Simply put "Red Card Circles Cut Outs" into the search button and a couple of options will come up.
- 8) Wet wipe: One wet wipe wrapped up in a piece of clingfilm is needed for each bag.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk)

<sup>2</sup> [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)

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- 9) Wool: One 30cm length of white wool is needed for each bag. You can buy the white wool on ebay. Simple put “white double knitting wool” into the search button and a number of options will come up.
- 10) Pencil: One pencil is needed for each bag.
- 11) Material: One piece of material is needed for each bag. I suggest you use a piece of voile that is approximately 15cm square. Make a small cut half way along the material (as this will help when we invite people to rip their piece of material in two). The material can be purchased on ebay. Simple put “Two tone crystal organza voile” into ebay and choose the burgundy and blue option.
- 12) Heart shaped card: One heart shaped card is needed for each bag. You can either cut these out yourself or you can purchase them on ebay. Simply put “Heart shaped card cut outs” into the search button and a couple of options will come up. Choose the small card hearts.

### **On the door:**

As people arrive they are presented with a white paper bag. They also receive a small black mark (from a permanent marker pen eg “Sharpie”) on the back of one of their hands from one of the Welcome Team.

### **Welcome:**

Welcome everyone to the Good Friday service and explain that the service will follow Jesus during the last hours of his life, through readings, film, songs and various activities. Invite people to leave the things in the bags they have been given until the relevant part of the service.

### **Opening Prayer:**

You may choose to open the service with:

- an informal prayer
- the Church of England’s Collect for Good Friday<sup>3</sup>
- or the following prayer that the congregation could say together:

**Lord Jesus,  
We have gathered together on this Good Friday to seek you.  
Open our eyes afresh to see what you went through for us.  
Melt our hearts with your love that we might love you more  
and be willing to lay down our lives for the sake of others.  
For the glory of your name. Amen.**

### **Opening Songs:**

Song(s) to draw people into worship as per Appendix 1

<sup>3</sup> The Collect for Good Friday can be found at: <https://www.churchofengland.org/media/41156/tspashw.pdf>

## Part 1: Jesus anointed at Bethany and Judas agrees to betray Jesus

### Dramatized Reading:

This section begins with a dramatized reading, taken from Matthew 26:6-16, which can be found in Appendix 4.

### Comment:

- Jesus said, *“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”* (Matthew 6:24)
- The woman in the reading was devoted to Jesus in her heart....Jesus was her master, whereas Judas who was devoted to money in his heart....money was his master.
- As a result of being devoted to Jesus, the woman **gave** her life savings to Him in the perfume she poured over His body. As a result of being devoted to money, Judas was willing to **take** thirty silver coins (approximately four months wages) in return for the betrayal of Jesus.

### Activity:

Invite people to open their paper bags and find the one pound coin. Encourage them to hold the coin in the palm of their hands and look at it for a few seconds. Then say something like:

We are presented with the same choice as Judas and the woman in Bethany.

- Who is our master? Who are we really devoted to?
- Is our master Jesus or money?

This morning we are going to give you an opportunity to make that choice.

- In a moment we are going to pass around collecting bags.....
- You will then have a choice whether to give the pound coin to Jesus' Kingdom work (*mention some project that your church is involved in*) or whether to keep the money for yourself.
- No-one will be watching what you do with your pound coin as this choice is between you and God.
- This is your chance to think about you really serve – “Is your master Jesus or money?”

Pass around collecting bags for people to put their money in secretly. While they are doing this the musicians might like to play some quiet music (eg “Purify my heart”<sup>4</sup>)

## Part 2: The Lord's Supper

### Film Clip:

This section begins with a film clip which covers the Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples and which can be found in Matthew 26:17-30. “The Gospel according to Matthew” DVD<sup>5</sup> works well as it is a dramatization with word for word Scripture from the New International Version of the Bible.

<sup>4</sup> “Purify my heart” - Brian Doerksen © 1990 Mercy/Vineyard

<sup>5</sup> You can purchase “The Gospel according to Matthew” DVD on Amazon – it is the 2010 version with Richard Kiley

Alternatively you could show the clip from the “Gospel according to Matthew” on YouTube<sup>6</sup>. Play the clip from 3:35:05 – 3:39:55. If you cannot play a film clip, simply read the Scripture.

**Comment:**

The meal that Jesus and his disciples were celebrating together was the Passover meal when they remembered how God had led them out of slavery in Egypt to freedom.

- During this celebration Jesus gave a new meaning to the meal.
- He broke bread to remind them that his body would be broken on a cross and he shared wine to remind them that his blood would be shed.
- These symbols of broken bread and wine would remind Jesus’ followers in the future of the freedom from the slavery of sin that Jesus won for them on the cross.

**Activity:**

Invite people to open their paper bags and take out the pitta bread and grapes wrapped in foil. Then encourage them to eat the bread and grapes as a way of taking part in the “Passover meal”

**Part 3: Gethsemane and Jesus is arrested**

**Reading:**

This section begins with reading Matthew 26:36-56 from a modern version of the bible.

**Comment:**

Jesus went through agony in the garden as he wrestled with the choice of whether or not to obey his father and be willing to die the death that we deserve.

- He chose the Father’s will over his own.
- Most of the disciples on the other hand chose to run away as soon as soldiers came to arrest Jesus.

**Activity:**

Invite people to open their paper bags and take out the prayer card which is then prayed together by everyone:

**Jesus thank you that you chose to obey your Father.**

**Thank you that you chose to die the death I deserve for my sins.**

**Help me choose to obey you in every choice I have to make. Amen.**

**Song:**

A song about God’s love in sending Jesus as per Appendix 1

**Part 4: Peter disowns Jesus**

**Dramatized Reading:**

This section begins with a dramatized reading, taken from Matthew 26:69-75, which can be found in Appendix 5.

**Comment:**

Peter chose to deny knowing Jesus three times because he was afraid of what might happen to him.

- He put looking after himself before following Jesus.
- We can all do the same thing as Peter.....we can deny knowing Jesus especially when we are afraid of what others think of us, or might do to us.

<sup>6</sup> You can find “The Gospel according to Matthew” on youtube here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKv5N6SRDqU>

**Activity:**

Invite people to open their paper bags and take out the feather. Tell them that this feather is a reminder of the cockerel that crowed after Peter had denied knowing Jesus three times. Encourage people to hold the feather in their hands and in a moment of silence to say sorry to Jesus for the times that they have denied knowing Him.

**Part 5: Jesus before Pilate****Film Clip:**

This section begins with a film clip which covers Jesus standing before Pilate and which can be found in Matthew 27:11-26. As before you can either use "The Gospel according to Matthew" DVD or show the clip on YouTube (see footnote 3 on page 5 and footnote 4 on page 6). Play the clip from 3:57:11 – 4:01:11. If you cannot play a film clip, simply read the Scripture.

**Comment:**

Pilate knew that the people had chosen to crucify a sinless man instead of a murderer.

- Instead of doing the right thing and releasing Jesus, Pilate sinned and condemned Jesus to death.
- He washed his hands as a way of trying to wash away his guilt, but guilty hearts cannot be washed clean with soap and water.

**Activity:**

Say something like:

Look at the black mark on your hand that you received on your way into church.

- Let it remind you of the wrong things that you choose to do.
- Now take your thumb and see if you can remove the mark on the back of your hand by simply rubbing it hard, like a rubber.
- You will find that it cannot be removed.
- We cannot get rid of our sin by ourselves.

**Song:**

A song about the need for Jesus' blood to be shed, as per Appendix 1.

During this song move a large cross (if you have one) into the centre of the room.....where most people can access it easily. Alternatively you might have the cross already positioned in the centre of the room from the beginning of the service. At the foot of the cross have bowls with either pins or bluetac available for people to be able to pin or stick their red card circles to the cross. If you don't have a large cross, place the largest cross you have on a table and instead of people pinning their red circles to the cross, encourage them to lay the circles at the foot of the cross.

**Part 6: The Crucifixion****Reading:**

This section begins with reading Matthew 27:32-44 from a modern version of the bible.

**Comment:**

Jesus hung on the cross to take the punishment for the wrong things we have done.

- Sin cost Jesus his life.
- God chooses to forgive us if we confess our sins to him, trusting in Jesus' sacrifice alone.

**Activity:**

Invite people to open their paper bags and take out the red blood droplet (red circle) and the pencil. Say something like:

Let's take a moment of quiet and allow God to show us some of the things that we have done wrong.

- As he shows you those things, write them on your blood droplet.
- Once you have done that take your blood droplet and pin it to the cross, with the words facing into the cross.

Once everyone has taken their red blood droplet and pinned it to the cross:

- Remind people of God's promise in 1 John 1:9 and that if they have confessed their sins, then God has forgiven them.
- Invite people in light of this promise to take the wet wipe out of their bags (and out of the cling film) and to rub off the dirty mark from the back of their hands.
- As a reminder that they are forgiven, invite people to take out the piece of white wool from their bags and to tie it around their wrists.

**Part 7: The Death of Jesus****Reading:**

This section begins with reading Matthew 27:45-54 from a modern version of the bible. You might like to add a sound effect<sup>7</sup> for the earth shaking and the rocks splitting (verse 51).

**Comment:**

When Jesus died, the temple curtain that separated God's holy presence from people was torn in two from top to bottom.

- Now because of Jesus' death there is access into God's presence
- We are able to have a relationship with our Heavenly Father as the barrier of our sin has been dealt with. It is finished!

**Activity:**

Invite people to open their paper bags and to take out the piece of material. Explain that they are all going to shout at the top of their voices "IT IS FINISHED" as they rip their piece of material from the top to the bottom as a reminder that they can now come freely to God and enjoy knowing Him. Before people do this, tell them that they need to find the small rip in the material (that has been made) and to hold the material such that the rip is at the top!

**"IT IS FINISHED"**

**Part 8: The Burial of Jesus****Film Clip:**

This section begins with a film clip which covers the burial of Jesus and which can be found in Matthew 27:57-61. As before you can either use "The Gospel according to Matthew" DVD or show the clip on YouTube (see footnote 3 on page 5 and footnote 4 on page 6). Play the clip from 4:07:19 – 4:09:23. If you cannot play a film clip, simply read the Scripture.

<sup>7</sup> Have a look at the "cave in" sound at the following link:

<http://soundbible.com/suggest.php?q=earthquake&x=0&y=0>

**Comment:**

As we leave Jesus today in the tomb with a stone across it, let's finish by focusing on the love that Jesus showed us in giving up his life.

- What more could God have done to show us His love?
- Jesus himself said, "*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.*" (John 15:13)

**Activity:**

Invite people to open their paper bags and to take out the heart shaped card and their pencil. Say something like:

In response to the love that Jesus has shown us, let's offer our lives afresh to Him this morning.

- If you would like to do that, write your name in the centre of the heart shaped card and during our last song come and place your heart at the foot of the cross.

**Final Songs:**

A song of offering ourselves as per Appendix 1

**Prayer:**

End the service with a simple prayer. You might like to use something like the following:

Lord Jesus as we leave this place,

Keep our hearts burning with gratitude and love, for all that you have given to us.

Enable us to walk in humble obedience with you.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

## Appendix 1 - Ideas for Songs and Hymns:

i) Song(s) to draw people into worship. Ideas include:

- How deep the Father's love for us (Stuart Townend © 1995 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus Christ I think upon your sacrifice (Matt Redman © 1995 Thankyou Music)
- There is a green hill far away (Cecil Alexander)
- Who O Lord could save themselves (Matt Redman & Jonas Myrin © 2009 Thankyou Music)

ii) A song about God's love in sending Jesus. Ideas include:

- For God so loved the world (John Hardwick © John Hardwick)
- God so loved that He gave (Ben Cantelon © 2010 Thankyou Music)
- There is a redeemer (Melody Green © 1982 Birdwing Music)
- To see the King of heaven fall (Keith Getty & Stuart Townend © 2009 Thankyou Music)

iii) A song about the need for Jesus' blood to be shed. Ideas include:

- Come and see, come and see (Graham Kendrick © 1989 Make Way Music)
- Glory be to Jesus (Edward Caswall)
- He was pierced for our transgressions (Maggi Dawn © 1987 Thankyou Music)
- It's your blood (Michael Christ © 1985 Mercy/Vineyard)
- What can wash away my sin (Robert Lowry Arr. Beth Croft © 2010 Thankyou Music)
- Your blood speaks a better word (Matt Redman © 2004 Thankyou Music)

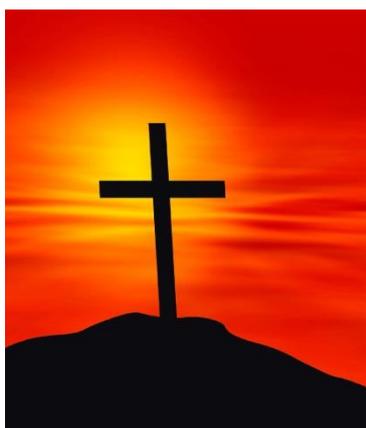
iv) A song of offering ourselves. Ideas include:

- Beneath the cross of Jesus (Keith & Kristyn Getty © 2005 Thankyou Music)
- Here is love vast as the ocean (including the new verse 3) (Robert Lowry)
- I will offer up my life (Matt Redman © 1994 Thankyou Music)
- Jesus you endured my pain (Phil Wickham (2009 Seems Like Music & Phil Wickham Music)
- When I survey the wondrous cross (Isaac Watts)

## Appendix 2 – Cross “Stickers” for bags

Make stickers using “Avery” labels L7166 (Shipping labels 99,1 x 93,1 white) with the image and words below.

### Good Friday



## Appendix 3 – “Prayer Card” Template



**Jesus, thank you that you chose  
to obey your Father.**

**Thank you that you chose to die  
the death I deserve for my sins.**

**Help me choose to obey you in  
every choice I have to make.**

**Amen**



**Jesus, thank you that you chose  
to obey your Father.**

**Thank you that you chose to die  
the death I deserve for my sins.**

**Help me choose to obey you in  
every choice I have to make.**

**Amen**



**Jesus, thank you that you chose  
to obey your Father.**

**Thank you that you chose to die  
the death I deserve for my sins.**

**Help me choose to obey you in  
every choice I have to make.**

**Amen**



**Jesus, thank you that you chose  
to obey your Father.**

**Thank you that you chose to die  
the death I deserve for my sins.**

**Help me choose to obey you in  
every choice I have to make.**

**Amen**

## Appendix 4 – Dramatized Bible reading

### Matthew 26:6-16

**Cast:** Narrator, Jesus, Simon, Woman, Judas Iscariot, Disciple, 2 x Chief Priests  
**Props:** Couple of chairs for Jesus, Simon, Judas and Disciple, table. Water in an old fashioned jug (for realism you could use Rose water which is easily available in online shops like Amazon), thirty ten pence pieces

.....  
*Enter Jesus and Simon who go to the front of the room and sit on a couple of chairs next to each other at a table. They mime speaking to each other. Enter Judas Iscariot and another disciple who sit either end of the table on chairs.*

**Narrator:** While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume.

*Enter Woman who comes and stands behind Jesus carrying the jug of fragranced liquid. As the Narrator speaks she pours the liquid over Jesus' head.*

**Narrator:** She poured the perfume on Jesus' head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant.

**Judas(angrily)** Why this waste?

**Disciple:** This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.

**Narrator:** Aware of this Jesus said to them:

**Jesus:** Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.

*Judas then gets up from the table and walks to another part of the church where 2 Chief Priests appear. He stands in front of them.*

**Narrator:** Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked:

**Judas:** What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?

**Narrator:** So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.

*Chief Priests count out the 30 ten pence coins into Judas' hands.*

**Narrator:** From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over.

*Exit the whole cast.*

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## Appendix 5 – Dramatized Bible reading Matthew 26:69-75

**Cast:** Narrator, Peter, servant girl 1, servant girl 2, man

**Props:** Cockerel sound effect (this can be found here: <http://soundbible.com/tags-cockerel.html> ), chair for Peter

.....  
*Enter Peter who goes to the front of the room and sits on a chair rather glumly.*

Narrator: Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him.

*Enter servant girl 1 who goes up to Peter and says:*

Servant 1: You also were with Jesus of Galilee

Narrator: But he denied it before them all.

Peter: *(agitated)* I don't know what you're talking about.

*Peter gets up from his chair and walks to one side where he stands looking miserable. Servant girl 2 walks past him, stops and looks at him.*

Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there.

Servant 2: This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.

Narrator: He denied it again, with an oath:

Peter: *(more agitated)* I don't know the man!

*Man walks near to Peter.....takes a good look at him and stands by him.*

Narrator: After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said:

Man: Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.

Narrator: Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them:

Peter: *(very agitated)* I don't know the man!

Narrator: Immediately a rooster crowed.

*Cue sound effect of the rooster*

Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

*Peter weeps and then all actors exit*

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