

Churches Together in Selkirk and the Valleys: Good Friday Prayer Walk

1. Start in the garden in front of St. John's Church

Reading:

John 3: 14-17

"In the same way that Moses lifted the serpent in the desert so people could have something to see and then believe, it's necessary for the Son of Man to be lifted up – and everyone who looks up to him, trusting and expectant, will gain a real life, eternal life.

This is how much God loved the world. He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no-one need be destroyed; by believing in him anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again."

Prayer: pray for

- The congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church and the work of the Borders Centre of Mission in which St John's shares with the Episcopal churches in Galashiels and Hawick
- The use of St John's newly redeveloped building in outreach to the community, including a memory café for dementia sufferers and their carers
- The pupils, teachers and parents of Knowepark Primary School
- The protection and restoration of woodland and forest in Scotland and throughout the world

Song: If you have the sound file on your phone, you could listen, as you walk along to station 2, to the song, 'O my Saviour, lifted from the earth for me'

2. Car park between Police Station and former URC building

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-3

"Who would have believed what we now report?
Who could have seen the Lord's hand in this?

It was the will of the Lord that his servant
grow like a plant taking root in dry ground.
He had no dignity or beauty
to make us take notice of him.

There was nothing attractive about him,
nothing that would draw us to him.

We despised him and rejected him;
he endured suffering and pain.

Prayer: pray for

- Christians who have struggled during the pandemic, unable to meet with others in a regular place of worship
- All whose mental well-being has suffered through being confined to their homes, or who have experienced an increased sense of isolation, loneliness, fear and anxiety.
- Police, Fire service, Mountain rescue and others involved in emergency services
- Those involved in the struggle for justice for the poor in Scotland and throughout the world

Hymn: If you have the sound file on your phone, you could listen, as you walk along to station 3, to the hymn, 'Who would ever have believed it?'

3. In the garden in front of the Parish Church

Reading: Isaiah 53:4-6

But he endured the suffering that should have been ours,
the pain that we should have borne.

All the while we thought that his suffering
was punishment sent by God.

But because of our sins he was wounded,
beaten because of the evil we did.

We are healed by the punishment he suffered,
made whole by the blows he received.

All of us were like sheep that were lost,
each of us going his own way.

But the Lord made the punishment fall on him,
the punishment all of us deserved.

Prayer: pray for

- The congregation of Selkirk Parish Church and its Open Door outreach to isolated people in the community
- The owners and staff of town centre businesses and shops

- Our health centre staff, carers (paid and unpaid) who show practical love and compassion to the vulnerable and needy
- Those involved in medical research and health personnel throughout the world

Hymn: If you have the sound file on your phone, you could listen as you walk along to station 4 to the hymn, 'When I survey the wondrous cross'.

4. At Connections (Selkirk Baptist Church)

Reading: Romans 3:22-25

There is no distinction between people; since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, to be received through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over our sins.

Prayer: pray for

- The congregation of Selkirk Baptist Church and its leaders
- The Foodbank, Fresh Start Borders and other agencies supporting those in need locally
- The staff, pupils and parents of our young people at Selkirk High School
- The politicians, campaigners and activists involved in preparing for the COP26 Climate conference in Glasgow in November

Song: If you have the sound file on your phone, you could listen as you walk along to station 5 to the song, 'How deep the Father's love for us'

5. At the Market Place

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21, 23, 25

For the message about Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God's power. For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through 'wisdom', God decided, through the foolishness of what we proclaim to save those who believe. For we proclaim Christ crucified ... the power and the wisdom of God. For what seems to be God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and what seems to be God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Prayer: pray for

- The congregations of Ashkirk, Ettrick and Yarrow Churches
- Christians (and those of other religions) throughout the world who are persecuted for their faith
- The pupils, staff and parents of St. Joseph's, Philiphaugh, Kirkhope and Yarrow Schools
- Young people who try to make their voice heard on issues of social justice, poverty, climate breakdown and environmental issues
- Pray that politicians and those with power and influence may use their positions to act for the benefit of all
- Pray for our local politicians and Councillors, to make wise choices for our community

Hymn: If you have the sound file on your phone, you could listen as you walk along to station 6 to the hymn, 'There is a green hill far away'

6. At Our Lady and St. Joseph's

Reading: Philippians 2:8-11

Christ was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death— his death on the cross.

For this reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.

And so, in honor of the name of Jesus

all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees,

and all will openly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Prayer: pray for

- The congregation of Our Lady and St. Joseph's
- Those who work in the industrial and commercial zone of Selkirk down near the river
- Our elderly and infirm who live in Selkirk's Care Homes and sheltered accommodation
- Refugees and asylum seekers, praying for a compassionate response to them from both governments and the general community

Hymn: When the Son of God was dying