

# FAMILY SERVICE

Trinity Methodist Church, Jalan Ellis, Kuching  
10th April 2020

***Preparations:***

- 1. Objects – You may place a cross and candle(s) on a table to help people to focus.***
- 2. Optional Activity- Drawing: Manila card or A4 paper with some drawing tools.***
- 3. Dark or plain colour clothing.***

*(This worship format is used to celebrate the Good Friday worship service which has to be suspended due to COVID-19)*

# Good Friday

## IT IS FINISHED



## Good Friday:

Today we remember how our Lord Jesus Christ sacrificed himself on the cross to save us. The cross become the symbol of salvation; it is the new tree of life which bears eternal life for human beings.

Brothers and sisters may conduct Good Friday family worship service at 3pm. Prepare a cross and some candles and place them on a table. Parents shall lead the service.

### 1. Prayer

(Head of the family)

Lord Jesus Christ, as we gather before the cross with our beloved family members, we want to remember and be reminded of the pain and death that you bore for us. We are willing to give thanks and to love you deeper. We pray that you will strengthen us to take up our cross and follow you. We trust and believe that you are our saviour and the king of life. You are our lord of lords and king of kings.

**Amen.**

### 2. Song

(Choose either one)

#### Above All

Above all powers  
 Above all kings  
 Above all nature and all created things  
 Above all wisdom and all the ways of man  
 You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms  
 Above all thrones  
 Above all wonders the world has ever known  
 Above all wealth and treasures of the earth  
 There's no way to measure what you're worth

Crucified  
 Laid behind the stone  
 You lived to die  
 Rejected and alone  
 Like a rose trampled on the ground  
 You took the fall  
 And thought of me  
 Above all

#### Were You There?

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

4 Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
 Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?  
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
 Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

### 3. Scriptural Reading: Isaiah 53

(One parent lead, others respond)

After reading the bible, take out the drawing tools (Manila card, A4 paper, Pencils, etc.). As a family, all the members should work together to draw the crucifixion and sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ (free to be creative).

As the activity is going on, parents should emphasize three focal points. Firstly, remember the crucifixion and sufferings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, express your response and feelings towards the scriptures. Thirdly, teamwork and bonding among family members. After finish the drawing, write down all your family members' name and take a picture of your drawing. After the drawing is done, you may share your drawing with brothers and sisters through social media.

Parents need to take note that drawing is an **optional activity**.

### 4. Deeper Reflection:

#### “3 Types of People Under the Cross and the Covid-19”

In the past, people were looking at the cross with three different attitudes. Although we cannot equate the situation between the crucifixion of Christ and Covid-19. But there are also three types of people with different attitude. Let us also reflect on our Christian faith in the midst of Covid-19.

##### a. What does Jesus have to do with me?

The first kind of people, they despised Jesus and trampled on him. Regarding themselves as outsiders, they pulled themselves out from the political and religious battleground. What they did was only obeying orders from the authority. Who were they? They were soldiers who put Jesus Christ onto the cross. They heard about the name and the story of Jesus yet they mocked him with crown of thorns and purple robe. What does the death of Jesus have to do with them? Nothing to them, Jesus was just another prisoner sentenced to death to them (soldiers who executed order from the authority). Are we those soldiers, who overlook God's will and love?

In the midst of the Covid-19, do we just focus on ourselves? Making sure that we won't be harmed by the virus and that's all we care for. What does Christian faith and salvation have to do with you during this time?

##### b. What does Jesus do?

Another kind of people, they looked at the cross from very far away and didn't dare to step closer. They thought they would do something great together with Jesus – fighting against Roman political power. They also thought Jesus who was a kind and a powerful teacher or rabi would bring them a brighter future. Eventually when Jesus was hung on the cross, their dream had totally broken. From far away, they looked at the cross with a lot of

doubts as they didn't understand why God let this happen. They didn't know the true mission and identity of Jesus, until they met the resurrected Christ.

Today Christian faith is being tested by the outbreak of Covid-19. In the past, we may live in comfort, we may take grace for granted. When Covid-19 happened, like the disciples in those days, we have doubts. We don't understand why God allow this to happen and why God doesn't stop this disaster immediately. In the past, we may not have looked at our faith seriously enough that we attend church gatherings as a habit or we just want to earn acknowledgements from others. And now, as all the church activities have been stopped, we don't know how to depend on God. Some of us may choose to indulge ourselves in spiritual dryness. Hopefully in the midst of difficulties, you will remember and look at the resurrected Christ, and be strengthened in grace. Don't stay far away from the cross.

### **c. Truly, Jesus is the son of God!**

There was another type of person, called "centurion", who took part in destroying the church and was commanded to execute Jesus, called the 'Centurion'. The centurion stood right in front of the cross. Perhaps as he saw the entire process of Jesus being tortured and executed with his own eyes, the Holy Spirit touched him. He witnessed how Jesus was falsely accused and then wounded. He witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus. He heard Jesus asking for forgiveness, and also how he remained silent when the authorities made false accusations against him. At the moment when Jesus gave up his spirit, the earth shook and the sky turned into darkness. After seeing what had happened, the centurion clearly recognized the identity of Jesus. He humbled himself and exclaimed: "Surely this man was a righteous man, the son of God!" His understanding about Jesus had changed.

Many of us have also recognized the outbreak of this Covid-19 pandemic as an opportunity given by God to again remind and alert us. Make the best use of time (NIV, Ephesians 5:16), watch and pray during the MCO (implementing in the whole Malaysia). This is an opportunity for us to reinforce our relationship with God, or experience the faithfulness of God with our family, or practise pray and fast more frequently, or study holy bible harder, or maintain fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ through Internet, or plant seeds of peace among the chaos. In the past, the centurion recognized Jesus in front of the cross; today, shall we recognize this Covid-19 outbreak as an opportunity from our God? Let's be serious in examining our faith in the midst of this chaos, so that our faith and understanding of God can be refreshed. Stop being self-righteous, as if you are the centurion and not the soldiers! Who hang Jesus on the cross? Was it just the soldiers? No, it is you and me who hang Jesus on the cross. Was God's mercy solely meant for the centurion? No, God is willing to give mercy to all people on this earth and save those who turn back to Him. May God have mercy on us and heal the land. May we all humble ourselves during this chaos and turn back to God.

*(by Rev Ambrose Wong)*

## 5. Response

Take turn to share your personal reflection from the passage above. After sharing, parents shall assign family members to lead family to pray for the items below:

- Give thanks for the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ex: Father lead)
- Pray for inheritance of faith in the family. (Ex: Children lead)
- Pray for the Covid-19 to stop spreading. (Ex: Mother lead)

## 6. Song

(Choose either one)

### In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone! Who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious Day  
Up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

### Amazing Grace (my chains are gone)

Amazing grace  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, Amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love, Amazing grace

## **7. Closing Prayer** (To be led by the Head of the family, family members respond)

Dear Lord Jesus, You were tortured and crucified on the cross for our sake.

**We praise and adore You, for You have redeemed the world by Your holy cross.**

Dear Lord Jesus, Your cross is the stairway to heaven. It brings many people back to You.

**We praise and adore You, for You have redeemed the world by Your holy cross.**

Dear Lord Jesus, Your cross is the bridge between heaven and earth. It gives us peace till the day when we finally see the Lord.

**We praise and adore You, for You have redeemed the world by Your holy cross.**

Dear Lord Jesus, Your cross is the key to open the heaven, so that we may have a share at the feast in the kingdom of heaven.

**We praise and adore You, for You have redeemed the world by Your holy cross.**

Dear Lord Jesus, Your cross is the weapon of victory over evil and death. It helps to resist and defeat our enemies who attack us.

**We praise and adore You, for You have redeemed the world by Your holy cross.**

Have a moment of silence.

End with prayer and meditation.