



ALL NATIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH
**7 DAYS OF PRAYER
AND FASTING**

Sunday 24th to Saturday 30th March 2024



Journey to the Cross

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Welcome

Welcome, and thank you for accepting our invitation to join us for a week of prayer and fasting as Easter approaches. This year, we aim to think deeply about the path Jesus Christ took to the cross, highlighting His sacrifice for our sins and the salvation it brings.

You see the work of Jesus on the cross becomes the centre of all history. Everything before it looked ahead to what God the Son would accomplish on the cross. Everything after it looks back to the work that had to happen. In the season of Easter and Resurrection, it's good for us to think deeply about how Jesus had to live, die, and rise again.

During these seven days each day we will concentrate on a different part of Jesus' path, such as the Last Supper, Gethsemane, His legal hearings, crucifixion, death, burial, and rising again.

You can use this devotional and prayer guide for your personal times with God as well as a guide for our evening prayer sessions.

Let me encourage you to write as much as possible in a personal journal. The more you keep your journal while praying each day, the more you will get out of this special season of prayer.

Every blessing,

Pastor Ras



SUNDAY 24TH MARCH 2024

DAY 1

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Day 1: The Last Supper

Communion And Covenant

Scripture: Luke 22:14-20 (NLT)

In today's scripture reading, we find Jesus with His disciples, sharing a meal that would become the foundation for the celebration of communion in churches around the world. He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper, He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you."

REFLECTION

This moment marks a significant shift in how humanity connects with God. Jesus introduces the Lord's Supper or Communion as a sign of a new agreement, a new covenant between God and people. Through this act, Jesus is not only preparing His followers for His coming death but also inviting them into a relationship that is personal and alive.

When Jesus offers the bread and the cup, He is symbolising His body and blood, given as a sacrifice for our sins. This sacrifice opens the door for us to enter a direct relationship with God, free from the barriers of sin. It's a profound expression of love and



MONDAY 25TH MARCH 2024

DAY 2

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Day 2: Gethsemane

Surrender and Obedience

Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46

In today's scripture reading, we witness a pivotal moment in the life of Jesus Christ. His time of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane just before His arrest.

Imagine being in a beautiful garden at night, not for a peaceful evening stroll, but for a moment that will define the course of humanity. This is where we find Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, a place where His deepest prayers were poured out to the Father.

Jesus, fully aware of the pain and suffering that lay ahead of Him, shows us the ultimate example of surrender and obedience. He faced unimaginable fear and distress, so much so that He sweated drops of blood. Yet, His prayer was not one of defiance but of submission, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

This moment teaches us about the profound struggle between human desires and divine will. Jesus' willingness to submit to God's plan, despite the cost, illustrates a profound act of faith and trust in the Father.



TUESDAY 26ST MARCH 2024

DAY 3

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Day 3: Betrayal and Arrest

Trust During Betrayal

Scripture: John 18:1-11

Imagine the setting in the Garden of Gethsemane, a quiet place where Jesus often went to pray and seek solitude with His Father. This time, however, it became the scene of a profound betrayal. Judas, one of the twelve disciples who had walked closely with Jesus, led a band of soldiers to arrest Him. The pain of this betrayal hurts even more because of how close Jesus and his betrayer were. It wasn't just a casual acquaintance who betrayed Jesus, but someone who had shared a significant part of his life with him.

Yet, in this moment of ultimate betrayal, Jesus' response is striking. He does not react in anger or seek to escape. Instead, He steps forward, acknowledging His identity and protecting His disciples by asking the soldiers to let them go. This act reflects His unwavering trust in God's plan and His selfless love. He knew the Father's plan was for a greater good, beyond the immediate pain and betrayal. The actions of others did not shake His trust in God, no matter how close they were to Him.

When we feel betrayed or let down by others, it's natural to feel hurt, angry, or even to question God's plan for our lives. However, Jesus' example shows us the power of trust. Trusting God in the midst of betrayal doesn't mean the pain doesn't exist, but it means



WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2024

DAY 4

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Day 4: Trials Before the Sanhedrin and Pilate

Injustice and Patience

Scripture: *Mark 14:53-65; 15:1-15*

Our scripture for today recounts the trials Jesus faced before the religious leaders and then before Pilate, the Roman governor. Despite His innocence, Jesus was accused of crimes He did not commit.

Imagine being accused of something you didn't do. How would you feel? Angry? Scared? Sad? Jesus, though completely innocent, faced false accusations with remarkable calmness. He stood before people who wanted to harm Him, yet He responded with silence or with truth, never with hate or fear.

Jesus' trials teach us about the harsh reality of injustice in our world. Sometimes, bad things happen to good people. Sometimes, truth is twisted, and innocence is questioned. But Jesus' response gives us a powerful example of how to face such moments. He remained patient and composed, trusting in God's plan and righteousness, even when everything seemed unfair.

This story isn't just about injustice; it's also about the strength found in patience and faith. Jesus knew who He was and remained



THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2024

DAY 5

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Day 5: Crucifixion

Sacrifice and Forgiveness

Scripture: *Luke 23:33-46*

When we think about Jesus's crucifixion, it's essential to see it not just as a moment in history but as the pinnacle of sacrifice and a profound lesson in forgiveness. Jesus, on the cross, endured immense pain and suffering. Yet, in the midst of His agony, He chose to forgive those who were causing Him pain.

Imagine the scene: Jesus, nailed to the cross, looks down at the people who have betrayed Him, mocked Him, and are now watching Him suffer and die. Despite all this, Jesus speaks words of forgiveness. "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." These words are a powerful reminder of the depth of Jesus's love and mercy. He didn't just preach forgiveness; He lived it, even in His final moments.

This moment teaches us the true essence of forgiveness. Forgiveness is not condoning wrongdoing or pretending it doesn't hurt. It's about releasing the burden of anger and resentment, even when it's justified. Jesus's forgiveness on the cross shows us that if He could forgive those who were causing Him the greatest pain



FRIDAY 29TH MARCH 2024

DAY 6

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Day 6: Death and Burial

Hope in Despair

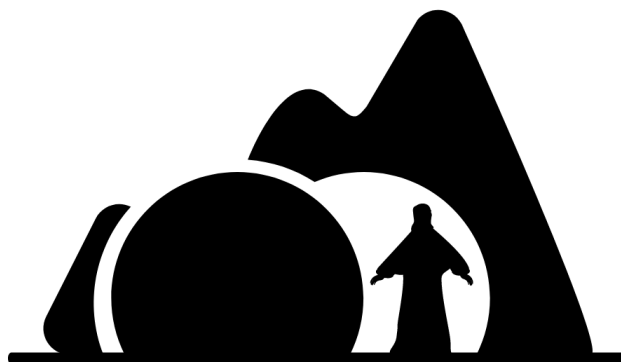
Scripture: *John 19:28-42*

Today's scripture takes us to a moment of deep sorrow and seeming hopelessness, the death and burial of Jesus Christ. As you read through these verses, imagine the heavy hearts of Jesus' disciples. They had lost their Teacher, their Friend, and their Hope. In the darkness of the cross and the stillness of the tomb, it may have seemed like everything was lost.

Imagine standing there with the disciples, witnessing the unthinkable. Jesus, the one they believed would change everything, now lay lifeless. The air was thick with despair, hearts broken, dreams shattered. It's a picture of utter hopelessness.

But this moment was not the end of the story. It was, in fact, a crucial part of God's incredible plan for humanity's salvation. In the darkest of times, when all seemed lost, God was at work. He was laying the groundwork for a miracle of hope and renewal that would forever change the world.

This teaches us a powerful lesson about hope; hope in God is not fragile, easily broken by life's trials. Even in the darkest of times, it serves as a steadfast anchor, keeping us grounded and steady.



SATURDAY 30TH MARCH 2024

DAY 7

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

Day 7: Resurrection

Victory and Life

Scripture: *Matthew 28:1-10*

Today's passage tells us about the incredible morning when Jesus rose from the dead. It's a story of hope, power, and God's promise being fulfilled. Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to see Jesus' tomb, but instead of finding Him dead, they found an angel who told them Jesus had risen, just as He said He would. They were filled with joy and ran to tell Jesus' disciples the amazing news. This story is the foundation of our faith. Jesus defeated death, proving He is God's Son and showing us that we, too, can have victory over sin and death through Him.

Today, let's celebrate the victory of Jesus' resurrection and the new life it offers us. Jesus' victory over death isn't just a historical event; it's a personal invitation to each of us to experience a life transformed by His power. The resurrection is proof that no sin is too great, no failure too final, and no situation too hopeless for God to turn around. Because Jesus lives, we can face tomorrow with hope, knowing that eternal life with Him is our promise.

Excellent Job

Great job for participating and completing this week of prayer and fasting. Throughout this week, we have closely followed Jesus' footsteps, starting from His last meal with His disciples, to His agonising walk to Gethsemane, experienced the pain of betrayal, and shared in the sorrow of the cross. But tomorrow is a special day, the morning that changed everything, the day when death was defeated, and the promise of eternal life was given to us all.

The morning of resurrection shows us God's endless love and His power to bring light out of darkness, hope out of despair, and joy out of sadness. It tells us that no situation is too difficult, no mistake too big, and no darkness too deep that Jesus' light can't shine through and change.

As you end your fast and move forward, take the victory and strength of the resurrection with you. Let it refresh you, make your faith stronger, and light up your spirit to live fully in the victory Jesus has won for you. Remember, the same power that brought Jesus back from the dead lives in you (Romans 8:11), giving you the strength to face challenges, to spread light in dark places, and to share the hope of the gospel with your life.

May the joy of the resurrection fill your heart, and may its power show in your life. As we celebrate our Lord's victory, let's move ahead together, in love and with a purpose, living out the life of resurrection in everything we do.

Let us end with a prayer

Heavenly Father, we are amazed by Your great power and endless love, shown so clearly when You raised Your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, from the dead. As we end our week of fasting and prayer, we are so thankful for the sacrifice made for us and the victory that gives us salvation.

Lord, let the truth of the resurrection sink deep into our hearts, changing us completely. May Your Spirit give us the power to live lives that show Your love, kindness, and power.

We ask for the strength to tackle the challenges that come our way, the wisdom to make sense of life's difficulties, and a joy that goes

beyond all understanding. May our lives be a witness to the power of Your resurrection, encouraging others to seek You and discover the true life.

Thank you, Lord, for being with us through this week of devotion. As we end our fast, we do so with hearts full of praise and ready to speak of Your goodness and mercy.

*In the victorious name of Jesus Christ, we pray,
Amen and Amen!*

Let me just take this moment to thank you once again for participating in our seven days of prayer and fasting. Here at All Nations Community Church, we know the power and the importance of prayer and fasting.

May God's peace, which is so wonderful that it cannot be fully comprehended, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Walk forward in triumph, dear friends, for He has indeed risen!

Don't miss out on our service tomorrow, where we have our baptism service at the 11 o'clock service. Hope to see you then.



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MAKING JESUS
KNOWN

FORMERLY KNOWN AS WYTHENSHAWE COMMUNITY CHURCH