

Lenten devotionals: Good Friday



Crucifixion

April 19th 2019

The morning dawned as any other,
Yet not to me.

Response to the chorus of birds was hostile,
Do you not know?

The sun silently emerged, but dimly so
More befitting of this, I agreed.

Thus silently I began my vigil to watch and pray
At the foot of the cross.

The church received my secret entry
Unobstrusive as shadow I knelt quickly down
Unworthy to watch, unworthy to receive
But worthy through grace to approach and feel.

Can I too, hear the mocking voices?

Does the harsh slap cross my face? Do

My hands buckle as the nails are driven,

Do they indeed hold me in place?

No, not this, but the weight of wrong,

The burden of yesterday's mistakes

The love that didn't flow; the joy hidden by injustice.

An hour? Is this all I give on this the darkest night?

Then from the deepest, certainty of soul

A whisper shroud brings comfort in eternal

Absence of noise.

I hear the cry, *My God why have you forsaken me?*

Knowing this not to be my voice,

for me the reply

My child this was for you, it is finished!

Renewed, look up to see

The darkness of today will disperse in the one true light.

The biblical account as recorded by a [John](#)

Listen to the gospel reading

LIGHTEN OUR DARKNESS

Charles Villiers Stanford

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers
of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)