



## Why the cross ?



1 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
hopes deceive and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me;  
lo! it glows with peace and joy.

5 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming  
adds new lustre to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.

As we come to You, God of the universe,

it is astonishing that in Jesus You entered the world, lived on earth,  
died on the cross.

Forgive us that all too often the cross has become a symbol without meaning

Help us to think of the meaning  
of the cross then

and of Jesus crucified can mean to us today.

So help us to worship You in spirit and in truth

loving You with all our heart, all our soul, all our might.

Remove any distractions or anything that will disturb our focus and concentration.

through Jesus Christ our Lord to Whom with You O Father and the Holy Spirit be all praise and glory  
Amen.



### Reading 1 Corinthians 2.1-5

And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come  
with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.

2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. 3 I came to  
you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and  
persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, 5 so that your faith might not rest on  
human wisdom, but on God's power.

1 And can it be, that I should gain  
an interest in the Saviour's blood?  
Died he for me, who caused his pain --  
for me, who him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! how can it be  
that thou, my God, should'st die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be  
that thou, my God, should'st die for me?

3 He left his Father's throne above, --  
so free, so infinite his grace --  
emptied himself of all but love,  
and bled for Adam's helpless race:  
'tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me!  
'tis mercy all, immense and free;  
for, O my God, it found out me!



5 No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!  
Alive in him, my living Head,  
and clothed in righteousness divine,  
bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.



### 1 Cor 1-2.2

The cross is the symbol of the Christian faith : why?

- a. the cross is public - truth to be examined. Not just emotional experience for some
- b. not just another religious system -  
Whereas other religions record mankind searching for God  
The Christian faith is God taking the initiative, reaching out for mankind. Good News !
- c. in focussing on the cross everything else falls into place
  - . relationship with God offered
  - . cross gives lasting value to individuals
  - . relates to the real world of wrong and suffering,
  - proof that God is a promise-keeping God!

Christ crucified - the tense refers to something in the past which has ongoing meaning in the present.

1 When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.  
2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them through his blood.

3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small.  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.



We give thanks for Jesus and the offer of a living relationship with God He has made possible  
Lord, hear us in our response ... whether for the first time or a recommitment.

Hear us Lord as we pray for those who are taking stand for Jesus  
for compassion to replace hatred  
for justice to replace unfairness  
for action to replace complacency

We pray for the distribution of the Shoeboxes of Blythswood

Hear us as we pray for someone struggling with ill health, stress, or loneliness.

us as we pray for countries where there is conflict ..  
and particularly for the Friends of St Andrew's Jerusalem as they seek to support Christians and  
Christian witness.

and as we sum up our prayers in the words Jesus taught those who love you to pray saying...  
"Our Father.... "

The first four lines of each verse are Jesus speaking ...

.. the second four lines are the response of someone who responds

from weariness, searching for meaning, seeing the way ahead in life.

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Come unto Me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon My breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in Him a resting place,  
and He has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down, and drink, and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in Him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
"I am this dark world's Light;  
look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in Him my Star, my Sun;  
and in that Light of life I'll walk,  
till trav'ling days are done.