

YOU CAN'T DO LIFE WITHOUT THIS



YOU CAN'T DO LIFE WITHOUT HEARING THIS

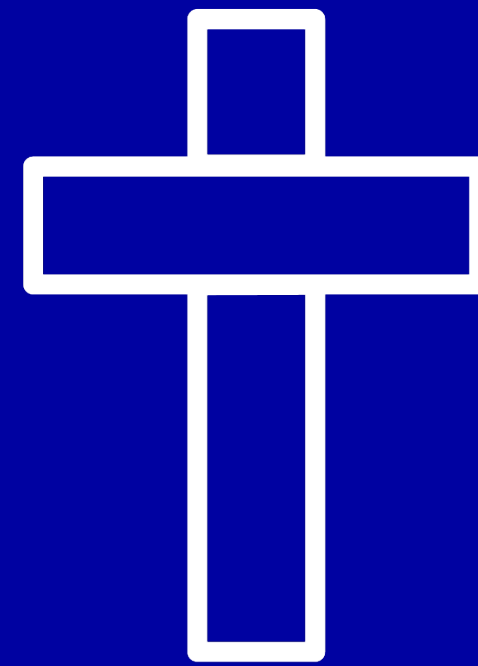


Cross



John 3:14-18

¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.” ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.



“Come, and see how Christ loved us! We could not put him in our [place], but he put himself. [In doing so] he took away the sin of the world, by taking it on himself... **Christ will not commit the care of his family to any other.** God's purposes shall take effect....We are the purchase of his blood, and the monuments of his grace...”

- Matthew Henry commentary

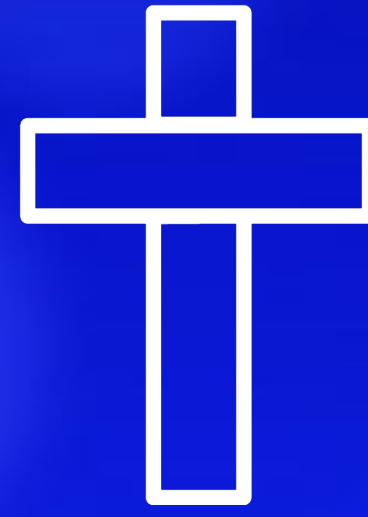


**Christmas is not really about the
gifts that we give, it is actually
about the gift we could *never* give.**



We can't give.

We can only receive and respond.



Isaiah 53

Who believes what we've heard and seen?
Who would have thought God's saving power would look like this?

²⁻⁶ The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling,
a scrubby plant in a parched field.

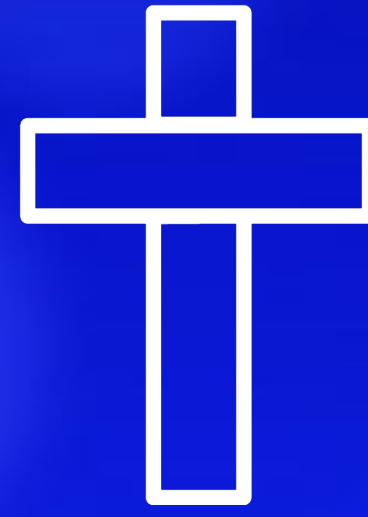
There was nothing attractive about him,
nothing to cause us to take a second look.

He was looked down on and passed over,
a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand.

One look at him and people turned away.

We looked down on him, thought he was scum.

But the fact is, it was *our* pains he carried—
our disfigurements, all the things wrong with *us*.

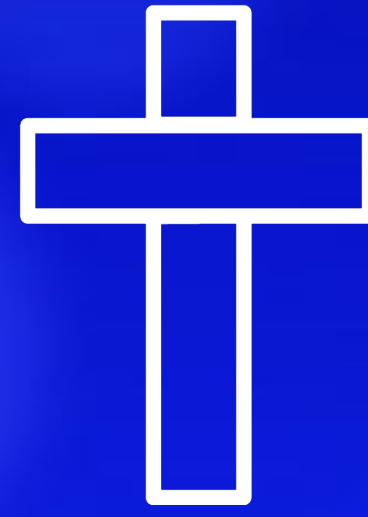


We thought he brought it on himself,
that God was punishing him for his own failures.
But it was our sins that did that to him,
that ripped and tore and crushed him—*our sins!*
He took the punishment, and that made us whole.
Through his bruises we get healed.
We're all like sheep who've wandered off and gotten lost.
We've all done our own thing, gone our own way.
And God has piled all our sins, everything we've done wrong,
on him.



7-9 He was beaten, he was tortured,
but he didn't say a word.
Like a lamb taken to be slaughtered
and like a sheep being sheared,
he took it all in silence.

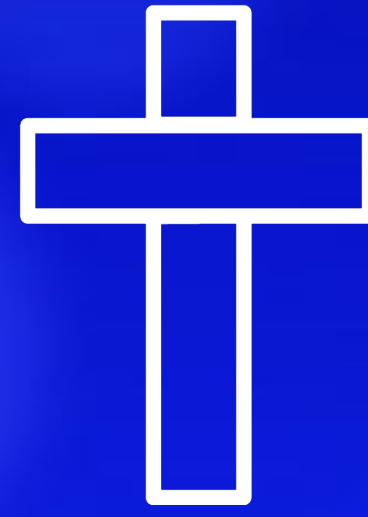
Justice miscarried, and he was led off—
and did anyone really know what was happening?
He died without a thought for his own welfare,
beaten bloody for the sins of my people.
They buried him with the wicked,
threw him in a grave with a rich man,
Even though he'd never hurt a soul
or said one word that wasn't true.



¹⁰ Still, it's what God had in mind all along,
to crush him with pain.

The plan was that he give himself as an offering for sin
so that he'd see life come from it—life, life, and more life.
And God's plan will deeply prosper through him.

¹¹⁻¹² Out of that terrible travail of soul,
he'll see that it's worth it and be glad he did it.
Through what he experienced, my righteous one, my servant,
will make many "righteous ones,"
as he himself carries the burden of their sins.



Therefore I'll reward him extravagantly—
the best of everything, the highest honours—
Because he looked death in the face and didn't flinch,
because he embraced the company of the lowest.
He took on his own shoulders the sin of the many,
he took up the cause of all the [lost] sheep.