



**A sermon for Choral Evensong at Wells Cathedral,
preached on Monday 30 March by the Reverend Dr
Kate Bruce, RAF Chaplain.**

Monday of Holy Week

Lamentations 2: 8-19 and Colossians 1: 18-23

The theme of our Holy week sermons is: Moving Deeper into Love.

The question on the table in yesterday's Evensong sermon, as we teetered on the brink of this Holy Week was... Who do you trust? Ultimately. Who do you trust? It's a fundamental question.

In a time of conflict, fear and uncertainty, who do you trust? We all know the answer should be God. But our behaviours and attitudes often betray a different reality.

Are we able to say: 'I trust God'. Or at least – that is my deepest desire (however wobbly). Can we say this?

This Holy Week we are being invited to move deeper into love - with renewed trust in the One who created us, redeemed us and loves us beyond measure. That may take some humbling on our part - the willingness to own our flakiness, failure and fragility alongside our desire for God.

Who do you trust? Keep that question in mind.

Our first reading today – from Lamentations – is a gut-wrenching cry. The writer – traditionally thought to be the prophet Jeremiah -bewails the fall of Jerusalem, in 586 BC. Jeremiah's dismay is palpable. They trusted in a world without God. That's what they got. Jerusalem is ruined physically. Her walls are broken. Her pride lies in rubble. Her political leaders are in exile. Her spiritual leaders failed to speak the truth. False hope had been peddled in misleading oracles. All the old certainties have gone. Temple. Tower. Crumbled. Gone. The people suffer horribly. Parents cannot feed their little ones. Suffering stalks. Death pounces. The nation is mocked by her enemies. Humiliated. Now what?

The prophet feels the pain deep in his body. He is literally sick with grief. But he will not remain silent. Jeremiah keeps calling the people back to God. '*Cry aloud to the Lord.*' This matters.

Whatever we face the bottom line is trust in God. Come back. Weep. Repent. Cry out from the pit, from the darkest of places. As Trust reaches out, she will find the hand of her twin sister - Hope. Trust and Hope. They walk with us, when we turn to God, moving deeper into love. When cynicism bites and despair beckons, Trust and Hope protect. They are gifts from God.

Trust in God for the poor, the fallen the suffering.

Trust in God - with our own flaws and failings - the secret burdens that weigh us down.

Trust in God – for purpose and vocation, for direction in how to serve and support those who feel hopeless and friendless.

As we look across the landscape of this Holy Week , as the ancient stories unfold again, we are reminded of all that God takes upon Himself for love of us. Conflict, betrayal, arrest, suffering and sacrifice, so that we the unreconciled, can find peace, forgiveness, cleansing, and acceptance.

It might sound like abstraction – nice religious ideas from the pulpit, disconnected from the realities of our lives: Geopolitical instability, Institutional failure. Corruption and violence. Sickness, depression, despair. Does the reconciling work of Jesus really touch this? Really? Yes.

The peace Paul speaks of wrought by Jesus's blood – shed in crucifixion ushers in peace of mind and heart. A steadfast sense that God knows and holds all things. Our sin and failing can be boldly shared with God who knows us completely, and loves us utterly. Day by day we can openly lament the effect of our sin – seeking the God who desires to be found and meets us in our honest failure.

This Holy Week – you are invited to take Trust and Hope by the hand, allow them to take hold of you – and lead you deeper into love. Walk through the week conscious of Jesus's reconciling work on behalf of an estranged world.

Hide nothing. No fear, no failing. Be open to all the goodness embedded in creation, embedded in you.

Come with trust and hope, moving deeper into love with our reconciling redeemer. Jesus Christ.

The Reverend Dr Kate Bruce
RAF Chaplain

30 March 2026