

# SAINT THOMAS CHURCH

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*Fifth Avenue · New York City*

## Sermon Outline

Good Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Lord Bishop Sentamu

5:30 p.m.

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Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19:42  
Theme: Living a Jesus Christ Shaped Life

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In 1994 Archbishop of Paris, Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger, told the story of a group of rowdy and restless boys outside Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, daring each other to confess to a made-up list of outrageous sins. One boy, Aaron took the dare and bombarded the priest with his list of hair-raising sins. The priest, realising what was going on, gave the boy an unusual act of penitence. “Go up to the crucifix and shout at it three times, **“You did all this for me, and I don’t give a damn.”** The boy began, but as he shouted a third time, he faltered, fell to his knees in tears. He saw God in that man on the cross. A God who loved him so much that he died for him. The following Easter, Aaron was baptised and confirmed, and years later he was ordained priest. The Archbishop ended - ***I was that boy! I encountered the Crucified and Risen Saviour that day, and like the Apostle Paul, I vowed to glory in the Cross of my Lord Jesus Christ, “through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world”*** (Galatians 6:14).

That is the power of Jesus of Nazareth, Crucified, Risen and Ascended, a power that has echoed down through the centuries, across empires, kingdoms, and republics. The Crucified Saviour stands as a sign to every man and woman who has endured bodily or spiritual pain that God knows what it means to suffer, and that he redeems our suffering, our pains, through his own sacrificial love.

His Cross also acts as a warning to every demon that this world is protected by *“a Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his flock”* (John 10:11).

The Cross is a memory of an impossible event - the day the Creator of the universe in his Son, died in his love to save a broken world. Doing for us that which we could not do for ourselves. The Cross of Jesus Christ is a paradox! wonderful and horrific; beautiful and unsightly; awesome and terrible; magnificent and cruel; sacred and sacrilegious; hopeless... and the very source of hope itself.

He has assured us of his **Power**, his **Presence**, and has **Commissioned** us to go and make disciples of all nations – baptising them and teaching them to obey all that he has commanded us.

**Sin** can never be cured but only **forgiven**, and by a **new creation** in Christ.

Hold on to that card you were given and hold on to the image of the Crucified Christ and the words, **“You did this for me and I give you my all.”**

God bless you richly.