

The Redeemer

An Oratorio for Lent

Martin Shaw

Part II

The Agony and the Betrayal

Musical Offering I – The Betrayal

Matthew 20:18-19 (KJV)

¹⁸ Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, ¹⁹ And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify *him*: and the third day he shall rise again.

Luke 22:3-6 (KJV)

³ Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. ⁴ And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them. ⁵ And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money. ⁶ And he promised, and sought opportunity to betray him unto them in the absence of the multitude.

The Sacrifice - by George Herbert 1593-1633

Mine own Apostle, who the bag did bear,
Though he had all I had, did not forbear
To sell me also, and to put me there:

Was ever grief like mine?

For thirty pence he did my death devise,
Who at three hundred did the ointment prize,
Not half so sweet as my sweet sacrifice:

Was ever grief like mine?

Musical Offering II – Not as I Will but as Thou Wilt

John 18:1 (KJV)

¹ . . . he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into which he entered, with his disciples.

Matthew 26:38-45 (KJV)

³⁸ Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

³⁹ And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying,
O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*.

⁴⁰ And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.

⁴² He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying,

O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

⁴³ And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take *your* rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

John 18:4-8 (KJV)

⁴ Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? ⁵ They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am *he*. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. ⁶ As soon then as he had said unto them, I am *he*, they went backward, and fell to the ground. ⁷ Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. ⁸ Jesus answered, I have told you that I am *he*: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:

Mark 14:50 (KJV)

⁵⁰ And they all forsook him, and fled.

Musical Offering III – I Am Thine

Verses

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Lord Jesus, who would think that I am Thine?

Ah, who would think

Who sees me ready to turn back or sink,

That Thou art mine?

I cannot hold Thee fast tho' Thou art mine:

Hold Thou me fast,

So earth shall know it last and heaven at last

That I am Thine.

Mark 14:46 (KJV)

⁴⁶ And they laid their hands on him, and took him.

To His Mistress

By John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, 1647–1680

Thou art my way; I wander if thou fly.

Thou art my light; if hid, how blind am I!

Thou art my life; if thou withdraw'st, I die.

Dissolve thy sunbeams, close thy wings and stay!

See, see how I am blind, and dead, and stray!

-O thou art my life, my light, my way!

Music Note

Tamara unearthed from the First Presbyterian archives an Oratorio by Martin Shaw that was performed here more than half a century ago. Several recitatives from Part II, The Agony and the Betrayal will be incorporated into tonight's service.

Martin Edward Fallas Shaw OBE, FRCM (9 March 1875 – 24 October 1958) was an English composer, conductor and (in his early life) theatre producer. His over 300 published works include songs, hymns, carols, oratorios, several instrumental works, a congregational mass setting (the *Anglican Folk Mass*) and four operas including a ballad opera. Martin Shaw has been described by Iain Burnside as "*the missing link between Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten*".

Shaw regarded *The Redeemer* as his finest work, and in turn it is regarded as one of the best oratorios of the 20th century – by those who know it. This is the 70th anniversary of its publication in 1945. It was widely admired at the time of its publication, not least by Shaw's life-long friend and colleague, Ralph Vaughan Williams, who said that it was "a notable work, and ought to be sung everywhere".

We are grateful to Hugh Moses, Baritone, Angelika Nair, Contralto, Karin Weibert, soprano and Tamara Cashour for enhancing our worship experience.