**Good Friday 2025**

Were you there?...

Was I there?...

Were we there…

I’d like to think so.

Who wasn’t there?...

Peter who denied him three times.

The other disciples who had run away in fear.

Judas who betrayed him.

They weren’t there.

So, who was there?

Two thieves being crucified with him.

A Roman centurion or two.

Mary, Jesus’s mother.

Mary Magdalene.

And John, the disciple whom Jesus loved.

Then Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

One thief mocked Jesus, but the other confessed faith in him.

One centurion, a just man, recognized his innocence.

Mary, Mary Magdalene, John, Joseph and Nicodemus just loved him to the bitter end.

Were you there?

Was I there?

A thief who repented.

A centurion who witnessed.

The two Marys, John, Joseph and Nicodemus who loved him.

Were you there?

Was I there?

Were we there?...

Yes, I believe we were.

**Amen.**