



HOLY TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Minister: Rev. Cory Vermeer-Cuthbert

Music Director: Ann Foy

Order of Worship

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 2, 2021

Welcome

A warm welcome is extended to all this morning, especially those who are worshipping at Holy Trinity for the first time. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together.

We invite you into this place and time of acceptance and light, to worship and know you are beloved and held in the divine embrace, just as you are.

WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP GOD

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

For thousands of years First nations people have walked in this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on the lands represented in the Robinson-Huron Treaty 61 of 1850, the Traditional Territory of the Serpent River and Mississagi people and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.

Call to Worship

Prayer of Approach

Loving God, during this time together, draw us closer to your heart, through the hearing of the story, through the lifting up of prayers, through songs expressive of our faith, and through the hope of a better tomorrow. *(Silence.)* Amen.

WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF COMMUNION

Invitation

**Hymn: Let us Break Bread Together
VU # 480**

Let us break bread together on our knees.
let us break bread together on our knees.

***When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.***

Let us drink wine together on our knees.
let us drink wine together on our knees. **R**

Let us praise God together on our knees.
let us praise God together on our knees. **R**

The Great Thanksgiving

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Christ is present here.

The spirit is among us.

Let us give thanks to God,
In memory and in hope.

Fraction and Pouring

Sharing Bread and the Fruit of the Vine

Prayer after Communion

Song: How Deep the Father's Love (Ann and Arlene)

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away.
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

How high, how wide, how deep the Father's love for us.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. I know it is finished.

How pure, how strong, how deep the Father's love for us.

I will not boast of anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ; His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ransom.
How high, how wide, how pure, how strong.
How deep the Father's love for us.

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD SPOKEN TO US AND RESPONSE IN PRAYER

John 18 – 19:42 (New Revised Standard Version)

First Reading: *The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus*

18 After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵ They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?" ¹² So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

Responsive Prayer:

Jesus, in the face of ruling powers, you remained true to yourself, you remained true to God. In the face of challenge, you stayed true to the words of Scripture. For all those who have been betrayed by loved ones, may they draw strength from your promise to be with us always. For all those betrayed and disappointed by unfulfilled promises from ruling governments, may they find hope in the pursuit of justice. Jesus, may your compassionate heart hear our prayers. Amen.

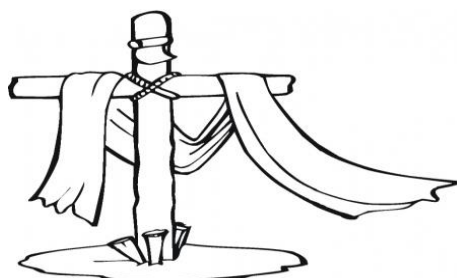
Second Reading: Jesus before the High Priest

¹³ First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. ¹⁴ Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. ¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.”

¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire as it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. ¹⁹ Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.”... ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Responsive Prayer:

Jesus our Redeemer, you are on the side of justice, even though you faced injustice. Jesus you are our peace, although so much of the world knows not peace. Almost daily we hear news of injustice; so often blacks, indigenous people, and people of colour are not treated fairly and with equity. We pray your Spirit might intervene. And we pray for religious leaders around the world, that they may speak and act with hope and justice. May they lead the way to peace. Jesus, may your heart for peace and justice hear our prayers. Amen.



Third Reading: Peter Denies Jesus Again, and Jesus before Pilate

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

²⁸ Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate’s headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters; so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover.

Responsive Prayer:

Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Hear our prayers. Forgive us for the times when we have denied you, when we have chosen to walk away, rather than take a stand. Merciful Christ, help us to stand in solidarity with those who have no voice, to speak up for those who cannot speak, and to follow your way of love and mercy. Jesus, have mercy upon us, and hear our prayers. Amen.

Fourth Reading: The Second Trial Before Pilate

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸ Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

Responsive Prayer:

Jesus, you who are the way, the truth and the life, you stood alone, speaking truth to power. George Floyd lay on the ground speaking truth to power – I can't breathe. Lord, hear the prayers of those who long for clean air to breathe, of those who long for pure running water in abundance, of those who long to dwell in peace and safety on the land, of those who long to sing a song in a strange land. Jesus, who art the truth that will set us free, hear our prayers.

Hymn: Wonder and Stare VU # 118

Wonder and stare, fear and beware;
heaven and hell are close at hand.
God's living word, Jesus the Lord.
follows where faith and love demand.

Fifth Reading: Jesus Sentenced to Death

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Responsive Prayer:

Jesus, whose way is not the way of the world, hear our prayers for those who are refugees, for those who flee their homelands to escape terror and strife and violence. Help our country to remain firm against unjust regimes and leaders, against countries who hold innocent men and women prisoner. Help us to stand firm in the fight against terror. Jesus, Liberator, hear our prayers.

Sixth Reading: The Journey to Golgotha

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" ¹¹ Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." ¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵ They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha



Hymn: Were You There?

VU # 144

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Seventh Reading: The Crucifixion of Jesus

¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."



Responsive Prayer:

Jesus our Comforter, we pray for all those who have died this day – those who have died of covid or related disease, those who have died of hunger or thirst, those who have died of loneliness or have died forgotten. We pray for those who have died at the hands of hate or war, for those who have died at the hands of governments. We pray for those who have died at their own hands.

We pray for all those who grieve; we pray for those whose illness has no end; we pray for those who long for wholeness. We pray for those who feel trapped, for those who have been abused, for those who feel no hope. We pray for those who live on the edge, for those who are marginalized, for those addicted to opioids.

We pray for those who feel powerless, for those belittled and diminished, for those who long to hear their names called. Jesus, you who embody love, help us to embody love, that others might have life. Hear our prayers. Amen.

Eighth Reading: The Care of Mary to John

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Responsive Prayer:

Jesus, our companion and friend, we pray for the widows and orphans in the community, for those who are alone without family or friend, for those who have left home behind. We pray for our Indigenous people, for survivors of residential schools, for those who were part of the sixties scoop, for those taken away from their families and raised in foster homes. Help us to be a people of radical hospitality.



Jesus, help us to open our eyes and recognize the abundance within our homes, and help us to see how we can offer from that riches to enable others opportunity to live in safety and in loving community. May we help to support the work of the Maplegate and Larry's Place shelters. Jesus, friend to all, hear our prayers. Amen.

Ninth Reading: The Death of Jesus

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

Extinguishing of The Christ Candle

Responsive Prayer:

(the prayer of silence, of sighs and groans too deep for words)

Jesus, Saviour, hear our prayers.



Tenth Reading: **The Burial of Jesus**

³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Responsive Prayer:

Lord Jesus, help us to stay with you through the night, through the dread; help us to wait until the morning brings new light. We pray for all those fighting cancer, that they may be strengthened in their Holy Saturday waiting... waiting for chemo, waiting for radiation, waiting for nausea to be over, waiting for the next treatment, waiting for results, waiting in hope, that morning dawns and new life awaits. Lord Jesus, in all our waiting, hear our prayers. Amen.

WE GO OUT WAITING...

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross VU # 149

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Prayer of Leave-Taking



GOOD FRIDAY