

The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge
First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

April 7, 2023

Minister Rev. Neal Palmer **Music Director** Martha Vickers
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Greeters Margaret Payne-Chénard & Mike Kierstead

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<u>Lectionary for today</u>	<u>Lectionary for Sunday</u>
Isaiah 52:13—53:12	Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 22	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Hebrews 10:16-25	Colossians 3:1-4
John 18:1—19:42	John 20:1-18

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where you are invited to present yourselves, body, mind, and spirit, as is comfortable for you today...*

GATHERING

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

The Candles are lit.

We gather at a crossroad.

We know not what lies ahead.

We know we will encounter betrayal, pain, and loneliness.

Yet, through Jesus, we are shown how to stand on our own and with all the suffering.

The powers of death and isolation are great.

Yet, in the Holy One, we discover a way of peace and companionship.

GATHERING PRAYER

***GATHERING 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.

ENGAGING

SCRIPTURE READING - Psalm 22 *(responsively)*

Response - *Kyrie Eleison (Kervin) – MV #69*

***Ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,
ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,
ky-ri-e e-le-i-son,
ky-ri-e e-le-i-son.***

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;

and by night, but find no rest.

Response

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved;

in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human;

scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Response

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near

and there is no one to help.

Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

I am poured out like water,

and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,

and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

you lay me in the dust of death.

For dogs are all around me;

a company of evildoers encircles me.

My hands and feet have shriveled;

I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;

they divide my clothes among themselves,

and for my clothing they cast lots.

Response

But you, O Lord, do not be far away!

O my help, come quickly to my aid!

Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!

Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

Response

You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;

stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted;

he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

Response

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

Response

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Response

BETWEEN TWO GARDENS *(Based on John 18:1—19:42)*

Helen Knowles, Gary Branch, Mike Kierstead & John Wiseman

GIFT OF MUSIC – “Were You There”

(Previously recorded April 3, 2020. Emma Vickers)

PRAYING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Margaret Payne-Chénard & Joanne Wiseman

A candle is extinguished after each verse is read...

Voice 1: God in anguish, we hold you, and walk with you, through, on, into the night. *(Moment of Silence)*

Voice 2: God, hold us, as we walk too, through, on, into this world’s shadows. *(Moment of Silence)*

Voice 1: God of passion, we kneel with you, praying, into the night, while the world conspires against you, and tries to put an end to love. *(Moment of Silence)*

Voice 2: God, kneel with us, as we pray too, into this night, as forces gather behind our words, and betray love’s future. *(Moment of Silence)*

Voice 1: God of day and night, who lives through it, we follow, holding your cup, trusting your will, though the shadows seem so long. *(Moment of Silence)*

Voice 2: God, who lives through us, follow on, help us hold your cup, and keep trusting Jesus, through the deep night. *(Moment of Silence)*

Voices 1 & 2: Amen

PROFESSING

PROFESSION OF FAITH *(responsively)*

Wait in faith now, people of God. Wait and if your faith runs low, touch the hands of those around you who also sit and wait beside the tomb.

We will wait in faith, Jesus Christ.

Hold near to you the people of ages past – those who had nothing but faith to sustain them. Wrap the bodies of need with shrouds of loving-kindness while you wait as though you, too, hold the Body of Christ.

We will wait in love, Jesus Christ.

Roll the stones of determination into the paths of those who would destroy hope and sit before the sanctuaries of good to guard the truth. Be the brave defenders against all who would take away the trust on a child's face – with its expectation that love will survive and bring us home to the victory of abundant life.

We will wait in faithfulness, Jesus Christ.

Wait in faith over these next three days. Wait in hope for the risen life of God to visit the people in grace. Wait in openness for gifts beyond imagining. For this is the Christ, the Human One whose love will never be defeated.

We will wait in hope.

Today's service ends without a formal benediction. It is an unfinished part of the continuous worship of Holy Week that does not conclude until the pronouncement of resurrection at the Easter Sunday service...

