

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

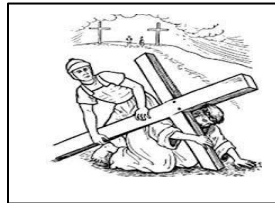
March 30, 2018
Good Friday

Clergy	Rev. Blair Lewis	Organist	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Isabel Clouston	Greeters	Gayle Ferron
Custodian	Alan Wilcox		Shirley Sealy

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**Lighting of the Christ candle
and the Six Lenten Candles:**

Even on this dark day of sorrow
God's light shines to show us the way
as we contemplate the meaning of the cross.



Call to worship:

**We enter into a holy place through the new and living way
Jesus Christ came into the world for us.**

**We come as people born of the grace of Jesus Christ,
delivered through his blood.**

Opening Prayer:

One: Into the shadow of chaos,

All: The light of the world steps forward.

One: From the silence of death,

All: The word of God breaks free.

One: From the emptiness of our souls,

All: The bread of life is broken.

Let us pray together:

**O God, you have been our help in ages past,
you are our hope for years to come.**

**Today we offer our heartfelt Thanksgiving,
our sacrifice of gratitude and praise.**

**As we give our lives to you,
show us how to love and serve you
and how to love and serve one another;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn: 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus' #135 VU**

Scripture: Mark 14 :17-25 Linda Newell

Response:

It was at a table that the story began:
A people longing for freedom;
A meal to prepare them
for the journey into the wilderness.
It was at the table that the story was retold:
A teacher and students wondering
what the coming hours would bring;
A meal set to prepare them for the journey into death.
It is at the Lord's Table that the story is remembered:
By people struggling to be faithful;
A meal shared
to prepare us for the journey into resurrection.

Scripture: Mark 14:26-50 Linda Newell

Response:

One: We convince ourselves that we could not act
as Jesus' friends do in this story,
but lest we forget:
We are the ones who slipped silently away when asked to
stand beside the poor and the oppressed.

All: Lest we forget:

One: We are the deniers of Jesus when we turn our backs
on those whom our world does not recognize.

All: Lest we forget:

One: We are the greedy
who cling to our possessions that we never use
when they could bless others.

All: Lest we forget:

One: We are the comfortable
who can sleep through the cries of hungry children.

All: Lest we forget:

One: Let us remember who we are and who we become.

***Hymn:** 'Were You There' #144VU vs 1

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?

[The first candle is extinguished]

Scripture: Mark 14:66-72 Margaret Payne-Chénard

Response:

Peter suddenly remembered what Jesus had said:
"Peter, you will deny me three times
before the rooster crows twice."
Peter covered his face with his hands and cried.

Hymn: 'Were You There' #144VU vs 2

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

(The second candle is extinguished)

Scripture: Mark 15:1-24 Margaret Payne-Chénard

Response:

No one asked him....
not the chief priest or his bought judges,
though fear would have deafened them.
Not the governor, balancing political opinions on his decision.
Not the mob,
pockets full of nightmares, stomachs full of poverty,
voices brimming with bile,
no goodness or mercy flowing over their cupped hands.
No one asked him,
but don't you think Jesus himself would have said,
maybe he whispered it to himself....
"Give them Barabbas! The rest of the night
and the next day was such a scary, sad time.

After the chief priests question Jesus,
they sent him to Pilate, the Roman governor.
Pilate asked the crowd what to do with Jesus
and Jesus' friends listened in horror
as everyone shouted, "crucify him!"
The two women named Mary and Salome stood nearby,
watching and waiting during the rest of that long terrible day.
When Jesus was crucified the day became dark
and when he died the temple curtain was torn from top to bottom.
A soldier who was standing at the foot of the cross said:
"truly, this one really was sent from God!"

Hymn: 'Were You There' #144VU vs 3

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?

[A third candle is extinguished]

Offering: 'Lead me to Calvary'

Choral Response:

'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow' #541 VU
***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.***

Prayer of dedication: (in unison)

**We give you thanks and praise, O God,
that you have poured out your love for us
through the life and death of Jesus Christ.
Teach us to pour out our love for others;
sharing your deep goodness and grace
with a world that is thirsty for new life,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture: Mark 15:42-47 Joanne Wiseman

Response: (in unison)

**Joseph of Arimathea,
a respected Jewish council member,
asked Pilot for permission to bury Jesus' body.
Joseph brought a linen cloth
and wrapped Jesus' body in it.
Mary Magdalene and Mary
the mother of Jesus watched
as Joseph laid the body in a small cave.
A large rock was rolled across
to seal the doorway to the tomb.**

Hymn: 'Were You There' #144VU vs 4

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

[A fourth candle is extinguished]

(The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross from the Middle Ages)

My people, my people, why have you forsaken me?
I delivered you from captivity through the water of baptism,
but you handed me over to my captors giving me up to die;
you have made a cross for your Savior.

I fed you in the wilderness with the bread of life from heaven,
but you are consumed with desire,
biting and devouring one another;
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

I came to be your light,
to overcome the darkness, but you remain in the shadows,
hiding your light from the world;
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

I gave you the keys to my realm and welcomed you inside,
but you turn away strangers, closing the doors that I open;
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

I offered you my peace and clothed you with compassion,
but you divide my garments, tearing apart what I design;
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

I sent my Holy Spirit to empower you with grace,
but you trust your own devices, squandering my good gifts;
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

I came to dwell among you, as the Word made flesh,
but you ignore your neighbors in need,
failing to recognize my face;
and you have made a cross for your Savior.

Response:

Ridiculed by his enemies, outcasts of his kin,
deserted by his friends,
God forsaken: the morning star of creation
hangs covered with the grit of the sins of the world.
Nailed to the cross,
the carpenter of Calvary repairs our brokenness
so that we might be restored to God's kingdom.

Hymn: 'Were You There' #144VU vs 5

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?

[A fifth candle is extinguished]

Anthem: 'The Song of the Cross'

[A time of silent prayer and contemplation]

[A sixth candle is extinguished]

Silent Prayer and the Lord's Prayer:

Hymn: 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross'

#149 VU

Response:

Feet that danced through the streets of Jerusalem,
welcoming the Messiah,
now softly passed through the back alleys in search of shadows.
Hearts that leapt with joy at the sight of David's true son,
are overturned at Golgotha.
Hands that wrapped a newborn son in bright bands of cloth
now cover his broken body with a shroud.
Where loud hosannas rang out,
there is now only the silent, weeping heart of God.

[The Christ candle is extinguished]

[Everyone is invited to depart in silence]

*Our Lord has written
the promise of the resurrection,
not in books alone,
but in every leaf in spring-time.
~Martin Luther~*

Mark 14:17-25 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve.

¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

²⁰ "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me.

²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ "This is my blood of the^[a] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.

²⁵ "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Mark 14:26-50 New International Version (NIV)

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

²⁷ "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "for it is written:

"I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered."^[a]

²⁸ But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee."

²⁹ Peter declared, "Even if all fall away, I will not."

³⁰ "Truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "today—yes, tonight—before the rooster crows twice^[b] you yourself will disown me three times."

³¹ But Peter insisted emphatically, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." And all the others said the same.

Gethsemane

³² They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

³³ He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

³⁴ "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

³⁵ Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him.

³⁶ "Abba,^[c] Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

³⁷ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon," he said to Peter, "are you asleep? Couldn't you keep watch for one hour?"

³⁸ Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

³⁹ Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

⁴⁰ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

⁴¹ Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.

⁴² Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"

Jesus Arrested

⁴³ Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

⁴⁵ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ The men seized Jesus and arrested him.

⁴⁷ Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸ "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?"

⁴⁹ Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled."

⁵⁰ Then everyone deserted him and fled.

Mark 14:66-72 New International Version (NIV)

Peter Disowns Jesus

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by.

⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.

⁶⁸ But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.^[a]

⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them."

⁷⁰ Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."

⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."

⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time.^[b] Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows twice^[c] you will disown me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Mark 15:1-24 New International Version (NIV)

Jesus Before Pilate

15 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

² “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

³ The chief priests accused him of many things.

⁴ So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested.

⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising.

⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹ “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate,

¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him.

¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹² “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

¹³ “Crucify him!” they shouted.

¹⁴ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers.

¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him.

¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!”

¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him.

²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross.

²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”).

²³ Then they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it.

²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

Mark 15:42-47 New International Version (NIV)

The Burial of Jesus

⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached,

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died.

⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph.

⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.