

*The United Church of Canada
Bathurst Pastoral Charge*

First United Church, Bathurst
www.firstunited-bathurst.ca

April 2, 2021

Minister	Rev. Neal Palmer	Music Director	Martha Vickers
Office Adm.	Margaret Daniels	Greeters	Mike Kierstead
Custodian	Steve White		Margaret Payne-Chenard

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Lectionary for today

Mark 14:10-11, 32-42, 43-50, 53-72; 15:1-37, 40-47 & 16:1-8

*The asterisk * identifies those times in the service where the congregation is invited to stand as able.*

GATHERING

The sanctuary is stripped. The Christ candle is all that remains.

BACKGROUND

...Every conversation we have today, then, is an opportunity to be especially gracious, humble, and celebratory because we look forward to the day when all people will experience unconditional love like the love Christ gave to everyone he encountered—a love that took him to the cross and beyond.

The Christ Candle is lit.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

We have watched with Jesus through the night. We have come with him to this place. Is it our intention to continue to follow Jesus?

Yes, it is our intention to continue to follow Jesus.

Let's walk with him, then, this day.

GATHERING HYMN

"Will You Come and Follow Me"

VU #567

During this hymn, fifteen candles are set up on the communion table and subsequently lit.

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

GATHERING PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE - "Jesus, We Are Here" MV #189

***Jesus, we are here;
Jesus, we are here;
Jesus, we are here;
we are here for you.***

THE CANDLE OF JUDAS*Jini Palmer*

Mark 14:10-11

*The first candle is extinguished.***THE CANDLES OF JAMES AND JOHN***Jini Palmer*

Mark 14:32-42

*Two candles are extinguished.***GIFT OF MUSIC** - "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" VU #142
(Previously recorded April 3, 2020) *Emma Vickers*Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.*Refrain**In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me.*Refrain*Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me.*Refrain*Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river.*Refrain***THE CANDLES OF THE OTHER DISCIPLES** *Catherine Eddy*

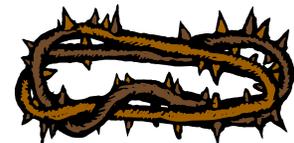
Mark 14:43-50

*Eight Candles are extinguished.***THE CANDLE OF PETER***Catherine Eddy*

Mark 14:53-72

*One candle is extinguished.***HYMN** – "Go to Dark Gethsemane" VU #133Go to dark Gethsemane,
you that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see;
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his grief away;
learn from him to watch and pray.See him at the judgement hall,
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
see him meekly bearing all;
love to all his soul sustained.
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss:
learn from Christ to bear the cross.Calvary's mournful mountain view;
there the Lord of glory see,
made a sacrifice for you,
dying on the accursed tree.
"It is finished," hear his cry:
trust in Christ and learn to die.**THE CANDLE OF JESUS***Helen Knowles*

Mark 15:1-37

The Christ candle is extinguished.

GIFT OF MUSIC -

"Were You There"

VU #144

*(Previously recorded April 3, 2020)**Emma Vickers*

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

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

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

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

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

THE CANDLES OF THE WOMEN*Martha Vickers**Mark 15:40—16:8**The last three candles are extinguished.***INVITATION****A TIME OF REFLECTION***Silence***PASSION CHORALE**

After the Christ candle is carried from the sanctuary, you may leave when you choose. The music will continue until the last person has left. The service will continue on Easter Sunday.



NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

THE CANDLE OF JUDAS

Mark 14:10-11

10 Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them.

11 When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The first candle is extinguished.

THE CANDLES OF JAMES AND JOHN

Mark 14:32-42

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

33 He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated.

34 And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake."

35 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.

36 He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want."

37 He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?"

38 Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words.

40 And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

41 He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

42 Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Two candles are extinguished.

THE CANDLES OF THE OTHER DISCIPLES

Mark 14:43-50

43 Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders.

44 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard."

45 So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him.

46 Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

47 But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

48 Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?"

49 Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

50 All of them deserted him and fled.

Eight Candles are extinguished.

THE CANDLE OF PETER

Mark 14:53-72

53 They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled.

54 Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

55 Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none.

56 For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree.

57 Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying,

58 "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'"

59 But even on this point their testimony did not agree.

60 Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?"

61 But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?"

62 Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'"

63 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses?"

64 You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death.

65 Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

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 stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth."

68 But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed.

69 And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them."

70 But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean."

71 But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about."

72 At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

One candle is extinguished.

THE CANDLE OF JESUS

Mark 15:1-37

15 As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.

2 Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so."

3 Then the chief priests accused him of many things.

4 Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you."

5 But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

6 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked.

7 Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection.

8 So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom.

9 Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

10 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.

11 But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.

12 Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"

13 They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

14 Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!"

15 So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

16 Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.

17 And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.

18 And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

19 They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

20 After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

21 They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

22 Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).

23 And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.

24 And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

25 It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.

26 The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews."

27 And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.

29 Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days,

30 save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

31 In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself.

32 Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

33 When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

34 At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

35 When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah."

36 And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."

37 Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The Christ candle is extinguished.