

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

Good Friday - April 18, 2025

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Good Friday Lectionary

Psalm 22 & Luke 22:14-23, & 23:1-56

*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*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(responsively)*

Our week began with celebration and hopeful yearning, a parade of palms and shouted hosannas.

How quickly time passes, how quickly things change.

It's a day we knew was coming,

a day of dread, and a day of death.

It's a day we would rather avoid,

a day we wish would never come.

But it is here, and we are here.

We have gathered before the cross,

to remember, to reflect,

to worship and to wonder,

to hear the story again that once more, together and in faith,

we may follow Jesus all the way, wherever he leads us.

***HYMN:** "Shadows Gather, Deep and Cold"

VU #134

Shadows gather, deep and cold;
lamplight flickers, fades and fails.
Lord, you know what daybreak holds:
thorns and beatings, cross and nails.
You will be denied, betrayed
when the rooster wakes the sun.
Yet you kneel alone and pray,
"Not my will, but thine be done."

In the watches of the night
in the hour when darkness reigns,
in the grief that has no light,
in the time of fear and pain,
then we hold fast to your way,
to the victory you have won.
Jesus, teach us how to pray,
"Not my will, but thine be done."

OPENING PRAYER:

Whether we ascend the highest mountain to see your creative glory or descend to the valley of the shadow of death, we are not alone. God of the heights of our humanity and the depths of our being, you are always with us. Be with us this hour, as we remember the life and death of Jesus. Change us in your mercy; lift us up to this moment, that we may meet it with faith, and so meet your wounded world with compassion and with grace. As followers of Jesus, even to this place, we pray. **Amen**

CHORAL RESPONSE – "Kyrie Eleison" (*Guarani*)

MV #68

***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.***

*O God have mercy,
O God have mercy,
O God, have mercy,
have mercy on us.*

*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.*

Psalm 22 *selected verses* *refrain from VU 154*

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.

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.

Refrain:

***"Why has God forsaken me?"
cried out Jesus from the cross,
as he shared the loneliness
of our deepest grief and loss.***

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.

Refrain:

***At the tomb of Lazarus Jesus
wept with open grief:
grant us, God, the tears which heal
all our pain and unbelief.***

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.

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.

Refrain:

***Jesus, as his life expired,
placed himself within God's care:
at our dying, Christ, may we trust
the love which conquers fear.***

***Mystery shrouds our life and death
but we need not be afraid,
for the mystery's heart is Love,
God's great love which Christ displayed.***

PASTORAL PRAYER

***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?

Liturgy of the Christ Candle:

Our Lenten journey began with Ash Wednesday and a reminder of our mortality. And now, we remember the death of Jesus, who walked with the world in its suffering. Who welcomed all into his light and into his circle of friends no matter how rejected or dejected they might be. He preached compassion, justice and love, he assured all of God's forgiveness that, like God's love, was immediate and intimate. And in spite of all this, the world still has its ways of retribution for those whose hope is in Love's creative power, whose faith is in the promise of abundant life for all and who proclaim our belonging with their lives, who welcome the challenge of the gospel...

time for silent reflection

Choral Response: Jesus, Remember Me VU #148

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the shadowed suffering of all God's children in the world, in body, in mind or in spirit. We embrace our God who suffers with us.

The Christ Candle is extinguished.

Luke 23:50-56 Jesus is buried.

***Hymn:** "O God, Why Are You Silent?" MV #73

O God, why are you silent?
I cannot hear your voice.
The proud and strong and violent
all claim you and rejoice.
You promised you would hold me
with tenderness and care.
Draw near, O Love, enfold me,
and ease this pain I bear.

Now lost within my grieving,
I fall and lose my way,
my fragile, faint believing
so swiftly swept away.
O God of pain and sorrow,
my compass and my guide,
I cannot face the morrow
without you by my side.

My hope lies bruised and battered,
my wounded heart is torn;
my spirit spent and shattered
by life's relentless storm.
Will you not bend to hear me,
my cries from deep within?
Have you no word to cheer me
when night is closing in?

Through endless nights of weeping,
through weary days of grief,
my heart is in your keeping,
my comfort, my relief.
Come, share my tears and sadness,
come, suffer in my pain,
O, bring me home to gladness,
restore my hope again.

May pain draw forth compassion,
let wisdom rise from loss.
O, take my heart and fashion
the image of your cross.
Then may I know your healing
through healing that I share,
your grace and love revealing,
your tenderness and care.

Commissioning and Benediction

Recessional

The congregation is invited to depart in silence during the recessional.