

The Passion Story and Prayers for Good Friday (April 7, 2023):

(the prayers during the scripture reading are adapted from "Lenten Tenebrae – Grieving Injustices" by Won Hur; the additional verses to the hymn "Were You There" are provided by Diane McKenty)

Welcome:

Statement of Acknowledgement:

Today we gather on treaty one land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Ojibwe and Dakota peoples, and in the heart of the Red River Metis Nation.

May we live in peace and friendship with the peoples of this land, honouring their relationship with the land, water, plants and animals through the many generations. For we are all treaty people.

Call to Worship:

On this Good Friday, as we walk the final steps with Christ on his journey to the cross, we are called to come together in mind and in spirit, to remember one more time the light Christ has brought to the world.

Christ taught us to trust in God, rather than be tempted to follow a path that may, at first glance, look easier. When we trust, we are supported on our journey by the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Christ has encouraged us to step away from the comfortable and familiar, to leave the easy path, and walk with him into the unknown. With faith in Christ, let us be open to exploring unknown paths.

Christ taught us to love all people, to believe in the inclusion of every man, woman and child in the family of God. When one is excluded, we are all made smaller.

Christ brought us all together, that we would all be connected, as one people. No one of us can live in complete isolation. We all make up one body in Christ.

In Christ, we have faith. While at times, sorrow and despair enter our lives, it is through our faith in God and in Christ that we can face our sorrows and continue on.

Christ has reminded us that being quiet and humble is not a sign of weakness. Rather we see in Christ how humility can be a great strength. We walk this path into Good Friday today, humbled by Christ's strength, inspired by Christ's faith.

Christ is Love. And Christ's love will overcome all fear.

Come now, to worship God, father and mother of us all; to follow Christ, who walked into the darkness for us; to seek out the Holy Spirit, who will be a light for us in the days to come.

Opening Prayer:

Holy One:

Be merciful to us who follow Jesus into the abyss of betrayal, rejection and death. Surround us with your spirit as we enter his darkness and ours, as we ponder power and brokenness and destruction.

AMEN

1st Hymn: VU# 149 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Let us pray.

All: O God, we really do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from you. Feed us with your wisdom and your truth. Quench our deepest thirst to find the peace that you offer to us. In this journey of Lent, travel with us as we seek to find our true self, the self you have created us to be. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

John 18:1-14 **Bob Kenyon**

Let us pray:

All: O God, we pray to be born anew, in order to grasp the meaning of your kingdom. We long to discover our authentic selves as we shed our false selves in this Lenten season. May your truth set us free. May we abide in your spirit of truth so that we can live a life worthy of eternity. Amen.

Hymn: VU144 Were You There

Were you there when they took my Lord away? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they took my Lord away? Oh!
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they took my Lord away?

John 18: 15-27

Deborah Holowka

Let us pray:

All: O Christ, you said, “Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” Therefore, O God, we pray that you will quench our deepest thirst for acceptance, love, and peace. Fill our cup with your spirit till it overflows. May we drink to our heart’s content at your well. May we live a life of blessing by giving to others what you give to us with generosity, courage, and hope. Amen.

Hymn: VU144 Were You There

Were you there when the cock began to crow? (Were you there?)
Were you there when the cock began to crow? Oh!
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the cock began to crow?

John 18: 28-40

Lynne Strome

Let us pray:

All: O God, we long for enlightened leaders to emerge who have the audacity to hope and to declare the truth we long to receive. How long must we wait? How long must we suffer? Or are we the ones who are to embrace the visions and possibilities? Then open our spirits for us to embrace your truth. Open our minds to receive your wisdom. Open our hearts to love widely, generously, and deeply. May our faith shine through us and may we experience your kingdom on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Hymn: VU144 Were You There

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)
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?

John 19: 1-16a

Nick Palylyk

Let us pray:

All: O Christ, who weeps for us and with us, we know that you are in our pain and in our suffering. We also know that you are in our deepest longings. We long for your kingdom to

come. We pray that our tears of sorrow will lead to tears of joy. Then may our tears of joy turn into a celebration as we dance our way into a revolution of your love. Amen.

Hymn: VU144 Were You There

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
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?

John 19: 16b-37

Nancy Sanders

Let us pray:

All: O God, who rules over the universe, please do not let the fools of this world destroy your world. Do not let them gloat over you and us. Do not let them have the last say or the last laugh. May your will be done. May justice and peace prevail. May we truly know that we live and move and have our being in you and through you. So, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: VU144 Were You There

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
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?

John 19: 38-42

Eleanor Harrison

Let us pray:

All: O God, we mourn when innocent people are killed. Especially, we mourn those who are being killed because they dare to speak the truth, because they defend the environment and challenge racism, and because they seek justice and peace. O God, who cries with us, stay with us through these times and through the loneliness of the night. Comfort us as we mourn, as we pray for a world to come, a world of blessing you promised to those who mourn. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: VU144 Were You There

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)
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?

Anthem: O, Come and Mourn with Me Awhile ~*along with Grey Street Chorus*

Sermon: In the Darkness

Closing Prayer:

Creator:

***Grant Mercy and Peace to we who are living,
Pardon and rest to the dead and the dying,
To your church, Unity, and Hope,
And to creation, Blessing and Life.***

AMEN

Hymn: VU 141 They Crucified My Lord

(Everyone is asked to leave, in silence.)