NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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April 7th, 2023 10 am Good Friday: The Crucifixion of Jesus

THE GATHERING

*Please rise in body or in spirit for sections marked with an asterisk.

GREETING:

Leader: On this day of sorrow, may the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*INTROIT: O Come And Mourn With Me Awhile #136 VU verse 1

O come and mourn with me a-while,

O come now to the Saviour's side;

O come, together, let us mourn,

Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: It's Friday. And we gather at the foot of the cross.

People: Into the shadows of chaos the Light of the World steps.

Leader: Are we willing to follow? To stay near him?

People: It would be easier to stay away. But this is where the Spirit

has led us.

Leader: Together we will make our way through the story. Together we will make our way through the sorrow. For it is Friday, and we gather at the foot of the cross.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION:

Voice 1: Lamb of God, grant us the courage and honesty, **People: to walk with you on this journey to the cross,** Voice 1: on this hardest of days,

People: in this holiest of weeks.

Voice 1: Lamb of God, from your broken, open heart,

People: love pours out, love beyond measure.

Voice 1: Open our hearts, that we might hold the stories,

People: and come to know the deep sacrifice of your life.

Voice 1: And hear us now as we pray together, saying:

Our Father who art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil,

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen

*HYMN#144 VU Were You There

REMEMBERING JESUS

Narrator: How the ending all began....

HYMN #135 VU Beneath The Cross Of Jesus

Narrator: John 15: 9-16

Lazarus~ Bill Elderkin

Narrator: Matthew 27: 33-34

Photine, the Samaritan woman at the Well ~ Sharon Noel

HYMN #145 VU O Sacred Head Sore Wounded

Narrator: Matthew 27: 57-58

Nicodemus~ Steve Hayward

Narrator: John 19: 25-27

Mary, Mother of Jesus: Dianne Saunders

CHOIR: God So Loved The World J. Stainer

PRAYERS FOR GOOD FRIDAY (The Sung Response is #411 VU)

Leader: And so we call to you...

Sung Response: Oh God we call. Oh God we call.

From deep inside we yearn, From deep inside we yearn, From deep inside we yearn, for you.

We entered Jerusalem just days ago, O God.

It seemed that great promise was handed out along with the palms. We tucked that bundle in our hearts and continued on our journey.

But our journey has brought us here, to the foot of the cross.

In the terrible grief, our promises were dropped.

And with them our hope.

And so we call to you...

Oh God we call. Oh God we call.

From deep inside we yearn,

From deep inside we yearn,

From deep inside we yearn, for you.

Beneath the cross, the ground is strewn with broken plans and promises, And kneeling pilgrims,

For we do not know what to do when the sky peels back to purple;

When our tears drench the earth,

And we grieve for all that is lost

And so we call to you...

Oh God we call. Oh God we call.

From deep inside we yearn,

From deep inside we yearn,

From deep inside we yearn, for you.

Give us confidence O God, That we can make our way still, That we can follow the ways of Jesus, For we carry the stories with us, We carry them in our heart.

> Oh God we call. Oh God we call. From deep inside we yearn, From deep inside we yearn, From deep inside we yearn, for you.

EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Leader: It is finished. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

[the Christ candle is extinguished]