

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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March 29, 2024 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: this holiest of weeks.

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

People: love pours out, love beyond measure.

Voice 1: Calm our hearts, that we might hold your pain,

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#149 VU When I Survey The Wondrous Cross**

REMEMBERING JESUS

~Narrator: How the ending all began....

CHOIR: *Winds Through The Olives* Martin/Angerman

~Narrator: From The Garden To The Cross....

~Lazarus ~ Rod Campbell

***HYMN#147 VU What Wondrous Love Is This**

~Narrator: John 19: 25b-27

~The Beloved Disciple ~ Bill Elderkin

~Narrator: Mark 15: 25-26, 29-34

~Martha~ Sharon Noel

*HYMN #145 VU O Sacred Head

~Narrator: John 19: 23-25, 28-29

~A Roman Soldier~ Keith Ball

CHOIR: *God So Loved The World* J.Stainer

~Narrator: John 19:30

~Mary, Mother of Jesus ~ Dianne Saunders

~Narrator: Luke 23: 44-46

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

Leader: In the stillness and sorrow of this day, we remember and pray:

***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,
And the words, both ancient and eternal,
That we can be your church and your people in whatever incarnation will
bring life.
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.**

And so we kneel amidst our dropped dreams, and dashed hopes, and we
remember that you still hold our hearts. Amen.

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]

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