

Good Friday April 15, 2022



**A Combined Good Friday Worship Service
of Barrie Hill, Rockwood, Speedside & Stone United
Churches
Good Friday April 15, 2:00pm**

Ministers: Heather Leffler, Lynn Hamilton

Prelude

Choral Approach VU 148 Jesus Remember Me

Speedside and Barrie Hill choirs
accompanied by Millie Smith

Greeting

Call to Worship

Into this time of remembrance, come, Holy Spirit, that we might be comforted by your presence and that our reading of this story might be filled with wisdom, compassion, and understanding. Amen.

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession

We come to the foot of your wondrous cross and bow together there with the disciples, Jesus.

We ponder the mystery of your life and death, especially in these times of transition in the world we know and cherish.

We proclaim the truth of who you are to us with those who witnessed your love poured out for us. Amidst the masks, protests, convoys, strongly held opinions, the ever changing regulations, even amidst the chatter of global uncertainty and distress, we know you among us.

We are Christian peoples. We come to you this day because you first came to us.

We come to show our love for you because you first loved us.

We come to serve you because you first served us.

We come to worship you with Holy God , and the Spirit, one God, now and always., ever-present in every time and space.

God of loving-kindness,

you sent Christ into the world

that we might have life and have it abundantly.

**Yet we live lives that are sometimes deadly,
certainly less than your purposes intend.**

**We are complicit in your world littered with human
greed, struggles for control and power positions,
violence and terror; our trust in you is shallow and our
faithfulness falters.**

In the face of uncertainty and trouble,

we forget that your loving kindness governs all things.

**Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and
direct who we shall be through Christ, the one we
follow. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

***Hymn** VU149. When I survey the Wondrous Cross
Speedside and Barrie Hill choir
members accompanied by Millie Smith

Prayer for Understanding & Grace

May the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts,
our choral voices lifted, , and the reflections we share be
acceptable in your sight O God. Amen.

Choral Anthem Face the Cross Speedside Choir
accompanied by Enid Petheram
*By Scott & Ruth Elaine Schram - Jubilate Music Group, LLC
(recorded)*

Scripture [John 18:1-11](#) NIV

Rockwood - Stone

Jesus Arrested

18 When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it.
2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees. They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons.
4 Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"
5 "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied.
"I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) 6 When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.

7 Again he asked them, “Who is it you want?”

“Jesus of Nazareth,” they said.

8 Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” 9 This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”^[a]

10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.)

11 Jesus commanded Peter, “Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?”

Prayer - Lynn

Creator, As we start this path with Jesus, give us the moments to reflect within and around us. Allow us to make sense of those moments of what was, is, and is to become. Guide us as we go together with you and others on this Passion story that we tell Good Friday. Let us be reminded that without darkness, we cannot see the light; that without the seed, a tree will not grow. Give us the strength to overcome. As we reflect on the betrayal of Jesus, we reflect on betrayal we may have lived through in our lives as well. We pause and take the time to remember, search, breathe, and then let go... “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?” Give us the ability to let go as Jesus has asked us to.

Select prayers in this service are adapted from The Passion Story and Prayers for Good Friday, Prepared by Murray Pruden, Indigenous Minister for Pacific Mountain Region in United Church of Canada Select prayers in this service adapted from © 2020 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>. Any copy must include this notice.

Sung verse VU 144

Were you there in the garden after dark?

Were you there in the garden after dark?

**Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble?
Were you there in the garden
after dark?**

Scripture [John 18: 12- 14](#) Rockwood Stone Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people.

Prayer - Heather

My God, There are many judgements amongst humankind. Many times we react rather than stop, pause, and reflect on what we believe is the truth. Today, my God, grant us the blessing of patience and resolve to not only speak our truth but also to live it and look upon others in the same blessed way. Let us live in wisdom so that no one would have to die for our truth but instead will live for our love. Amen.

Sung verse VU 144

**Were you there when they seized and bound my Lord?
Were you there when they seized and bound my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble?**

Were you there when they seized and bound my Lord ?

Scripture [John 18:15-27](#) Rockwood - Stone
Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, 16 but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was

known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in.

17 “You aren’t one of this man’s disciples too, are you?” she asked Peter.

He replied, “I am not.”

18 It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

The High Priest Questions Jesus

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

20 “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. 21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”

22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

23 “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” 24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter’s Second and Third Denials

25 Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?”

He denied it, saying, “I am not.”

26 One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?” 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

Prayer - Lynn

Holy One, There have been times in our lives when we have neglected knowing you. We have had moments when we may

have felt embarrassed, nervous, or shameful to speak of who we truly are as individuals, families, friends, communities, and society. We got scared to speak of who you created us to be. Forgive us. Give us the courage to stand up to be what is right in this world so that others can live in a world of safety. Let us support one another in good ways and speak with gratitude and honesty. Amen.

Sung Verse VU 144

**Were you there when the cock began to crow,
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**

Scripture [John 18:28-38a](#) Rockwood Stone

Jesus Before Pilate

28 Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

29 So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"

30 "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."

31 Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. 32 This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

33 Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

34 "Is that your own idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?"

35 "Am I a Jew?" Pilate replied. "Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"
36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."
37 "You are a king, then!" said Pilate.
Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."
38 "What is truth?" retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, "I find no basis for a charge against him."

Prayer - Heather

Creator of Heaven and Earth, we come to you asking this question: "What is truth?" As we travel forward in this time of our lives, we observe many changes and actions of others that we may not always agree with. Allow us to see the truth in the changes in our world and act in ways that are for the well-being of those experiencing these changes. This may give us the answer to the truth we seek in our lives. It may also bring us to peace with the changes in the world we live in. Let your truth, Creator, be our hope. Amen.

Sung Verse VU 144

**Were you there when they asked "Are you a King"
Were you there when they asked "Are you a King"
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble?
Were you there when they asked "Are you a King"**

Scripture John 18:38b- 19:1-5 NIV Rockwood Stone

After he had said this, he went out to the people again and told them, "I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

Prayer - Lynn

Loving God, Many times we cry over the injustices of this world. We get discouraged and frustrated from the harm we see around us. And in many instances we, too, are guilty of these injustices, sometimes without realizing it. Calm our spirits from these patterns of behaviour and give us a renewed thought and observation of these injustices. Place in our hands a new gift of life—a way of forgiveness, understanding, and loving creation. Allow us to be encouragement and peace during times of harm and hate. And, together with our siblings in the Spirit, we can be the path to loving one another, the commandment that Jesus left us. In loving companionship, Amen.

Sung verse VU144

Were you there when they made a crown of thorns?

Were you there when they made a crown of thorns?

**Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble?**

Were you there when they made a crown of thorns ?

**Scripture [John 19:16–30](#) The Crucifixion of Jesus
Bruce Miller**

So, they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So, they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**Were you there when he bowed and it was finished?
Were you there when he bowed and it was finished?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble?
Were you there when he bowed and it was finished?**

Prayer - Heather

Great Mystery, hear my prayer, from my heart and mind in silence, as I reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus. Allow the Holy Spirit to enter my temple as I remember the journey Jesus Christ has taken. Let this be a moment for you, Great Mystery, to guide me to what I need to receive in my life so that I understand a little more of my path and your creation.

(Observe a moment of silence.)

It is finished. Amen.

Scripture John 19:31–37 Brian Arsenault

Since it was the day of Preparation, some people did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) 36 These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” And again another passage of

scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

**Were you there when the soldier pierced his side?
Were you there when the soldier pierced his side ?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble?
Were you there when the soldier pierced his side?**

Prayer - Lynn

Dear God, let your miracle live through us as passionate people of your word. You have given us great wisdom and understanding to be miracles in this world. We are witnesses of the cross; we are witnesses of the truth. We pray we are a miracle that will go forward and help the world during its time of sorrow, its time of need, and its time of change. Bless us with the will to be a better people—a people that has the vision, the ability, the knowledge, the understanding, and the breath to continue this great journey of life. Through the harshness and through the triumphs we will be the commandment of Jesus. We will be the will and the love—the promise to our world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Scripture John 19:38–42 Tim Card

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so, he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden, there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Choral Anthem Lamb of God Speedside Choir
accompanied by Enid Petheram *by Jason Ingram, Andi Rozier & Meredith Andrews/arr. Cliff Duren - Word Music*

The Prayers of the People

...Lord, in your mercy:
hear our prayer.

Departing Choral Music - Jesus Remember Me

Silence

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