

April 10, 2020

GOOD FRIDAY

Welcome to this crucial service in the church year.

In preparation for worship, have a cross OR a paper with a Cross drawn on it, a small rock and a cotton ball (or Kleenex) for each person attending with you.

PRELUDE: Chorale Prelude on “O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Sin”
J.S. Bach

**GREETING
INTRODUCTION**

HYMN: VU147 “What Wondrous Love is This”**

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this,
that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In unison)*

God of the hilltops and of low places,
Revealer at Sinai and Reassuring One
in the valley of the shadow of death,
we rely on you.

You have created us and given life to all things,
but too often we have chased after other gods and
ridiculed those who practice their faith too seriously.

We have tried to put you to the test,
but have not wanted to be tested ourselves.
We place conditions on our belief and limit our trust,
while the One you sent to love us is rejected, tortured and
killed.

O God, what have we done!
Is it too late to be a disciple?
Hear our cry!

CHANT: VU148*
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom. *(Repeat)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: In the shadow of our suffering

People: **is the suffering of Jesus**

Leader: In the shadow of our weakness

People: **is the vulnerability of the Christ**

Leader: In the shadow of our pain

People: **is the God who cried out.**

Leader: We are NEVER rejected

People: **we are never left alone.**

Leader

READING A: John 18: 1-8 Betrayal & Arrest

SOLO: VU134 “Shadows Gather Deep and Cold”

READING B: John 18: 15-18, 25-27 Denial and Abandonment

SOLO: VU132 (v1-3) “Bitter Was the Night”

Leader

READING C: John 19: 4-16 Judgment

PRAYER: *(in unison)*

God in Christ, you travel with us in faith
towards the hard places in our souls.

You know the agony of pain, guilt and hurt
deep within us.

You know our own frightened faces,
often hidden from ourselves.

You know the violence sometimes hurled in anger
because we feel powerless to take the smallest step to
freedom.

You know the grief sometimes lying there embalmed and
perfumed by our resolve to remain victims forever.

There ARE stumbling blocks within ourselves
in our travelling, O God.

(silent reflection)

We take these stones and lay them
at the foot of your cross,
which is able to bear the weight and
the wounding for us.

ALL: We leave these hard things here
on our way through to life. *(silent reflection)*

READING D: John 19: 16-18, 26-30 Crucifixion

Leader

CHANT: VU144 (v1)***

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

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Leader

CHANT: VU144 (v5)

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

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

REFLECTION

SYMBOLS OF INNOCENCE

CHANT: “Were you there, when the crucified my Lord?”

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHANT:

Jesus, remember me

when you come into your kingdom. *(repeat)*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: *(in unison)*

We believe in God.

When there was nothing but an ocean of tears,

God sighed over the waters

and dreamed a small dream: light in the darkness,
a small planet space.

We believe in Jesus Christ.

When hate and fear were raging,

when love was beaten down,

when hope was nailed and left to die,

Christ entered into our deep secret places

and went down into our death to find us.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who weeps with us

in our despair, who breathes on prison doors,

never admitting it's hopeless,

always expecting the bars to bend and sway

and break forth into blossom.

COMMISSIONING

CHANT: VU182 (V1)****

Stay with us through the night.

Stay with us through the pain.

Stay with us, blessed stranger

till the morning breaks again.

Depart in Silence and Reflection

We thank all who participated in today's service.
It was an adaptation of a service devised by the people of Pitt Street Uniting Church in Sydney, Australia.

(McRae-McMahon, Echoes of our Journey, 1993, JBCE)

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Leading Today: Chris and Dave Freeman, Robert Grandy,
Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie

You are invited to worship with us electronically on Easter Sunday,
April 12. The link for the recorded service will be sent via e-mail
on Saturday.

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During Covid-19 the church office is closed. However the Minister and office staff are working from home and may still be reached at the above listings.

