



Artwork by Arta Skuja

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 2, 2021

INTERIM RECTOR: THE REV'D NICOLE UZANS

HONOURARY ASSISTANT: THE REV'D DR. V. BRUCE MATTHEWS

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND ORGANIST: DR. MICHELLE BOYD

GUEST MUSICIAN: SHANNON MACKAY

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

Prelude

On this day we gather to remember Jesus our Saviour who loved us and gave himself for us. Let us draw near in full assurance of God's endless love and mercy.

We give our thanks and praise to Jesus Christ who carries our sorrows, heals our wounds, and redeems us from sin and death.

~ written by Marlene Kropf, in Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross: Good Friday Service. Posted on Mennonite Church Canada Resource Centre website.

Hymn #198 - O Sacred Head, Surrounded

The Collect of the Day

Let us pray. O Holy and Immortal One, we veil our faces before your glory, and bow before the cross of your wounded Christ. With angels and archangels we praise you, our Mercy, and we bless you, our Compassion, for in our brokenness you have not abandoned us. Amen.

Words of Welcome & Introduction

The Seven Last Words Of Jesus From The Cross

- interspersed with verses from #184 My Song is Love Unknown
(tune: Love Unknown)

1. Forgive them, for they know not what they do... (Luke 23:32-34)
Reflection, quoting from Charles Eisenstein, "The Coronation" (essay, 2020) and The Rev. Canon Susanna Gunner (<https://www.dioceseofnorwich.org/app/uploads/2020/04/Good-Friday-Reflection.pdf>)

verse 1

My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me;
Love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

2. Today you will be with me in Paradise. (Luke 23:35-43)
Litany of Remembrance

As we stand in the shadow of your cross we call to mind the suffering of the world and its people, saying:

Jesus, remember them.

We pray for those who are torn apart by the evil that they have done: **Jesus, remember them.**

We pray for those who are victims of injustice: **Jesus, remember them.**

We pray for those who are victims of violence: **Jesus, remember them.**

We pray for those who suffer at the hands of others: **Jesus, remember them.**

We pray for those who cause suffering to others: **Jesus, remember them.**

We pray for those who feel forgotten or forsaken: **Jesus, remember them.**

We pray for those whom we have betrayed: **Jesus, remember them.**

We pray for those who do not have the basic necessities of life:
adequate food, water, housing or employment:

Jesus, remember them.

We pray for those we do not notice, or those whose suffering we
would rather ignore:

Jesus, remember them.

We pray for those whose decisions are motivated by profit and
greed, rather than the wellbeing of our planet and its people: **Jesus,
remember them.**

Jesus, remember all whom we have forgotten, and in your great
mercy and compassion, strengthen and uphold them, that in their
time of need, they may know the consolation of your love and the
assurance of your presence. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

verse 2

He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow;
But all made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know:
But O my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

3. 'Woman, Behold your Son!...Behold your mother.' (John 19:25-27)
*Reflection & the poem "A Virus That Must Unite Us" by Gradi
(14yrs) from the Democratic Republic of Congo
(<https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/covid-19-15-poems-from-children-in-15-countries>)*

verse 3

Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing,
Resounding all the day hosannas to their King;
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

4. *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Mark 15:33-34)
Reflection quoting Thomas Homer-Dixon, Commanding Hope: The
Power We Have to Renew a World in Peril*

verse 4

Why, what has my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.

Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

5. 'I thirst.' (John 19:28-29)
Prayers for renewal (United Church of Canada, 1990)

As we call to mind the parched places of the earth and our own
thirst for hope, renewal, and courage, let us pray.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, creative breath of God through whom this
world was breathed into existence and is sustained,
**Blow through the parched earth of our existence, and breathe Your
Life into our lives.**

Spirit of truth and wisdom, who through ages past and present
guides God's people into all truth,
**Blow through the parched earth of our knowledge, and breathe
your Truth into our lives.**

Holy Spirit, counsellor, sent by God; convicting, comforting, guiding
and reassuring,
**Blow through the parched earth of our faith, and breathe peace,
love and reassurance into our lives.**

Holy Spirit, anointer of your servants and prophets through the
ages, Source of authority, wisdom and power,
**Blow through the parched earth of our times and breathe Your
Spirit's power into our lives.**

Holy Spirit, indwelling presence of God, empowering the lives of
those who walked with Jesus to the cross and those who follow him
today,
**Blow through the parched earth of our witness, and empower our
lives so that we may help create a climate of change for the
wellbeing of all the earth. Amen.**

verse 5

They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

6. *'It is finished.'* (John 19:30)
*"Because We Love, We Cry" by Sheree Fitch, written in the wake
of the mass shooting in Nova Scotia, April, 2020*

verse 6

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;
Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

7. *'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.'* (Luke 23:44-49)
Responsory

Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.
Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.
He was despised; he was rejected, a man of sorrows and acquainted
with grief.
He has carried our sorrows.
He was pierced for our sins, bruised for no fault but ours.
He has carried our sorrows.
His punishment has won our peace, and by his wounds we are
healed.
He has carried our sorrows.
We had all strayed like sheep, but the Lord has laid on him the guilt
of us all.
He has carried our sorrows.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Surely he has borne our griefs; he has carried our sorrows.

Silence

Music for Reflection:

A Litany for Good Friday (*interspersed with the Trisagion #707*)
Lord, when we feel sorry for ourselves and think we have sacrificed
so much for others, remind us of what you did for us on the cross.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.*

Lord, when our patience wears thin and we are ready to give up,
speak to us through the example of your endurance on the cross.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.*

Lord, when we get angry and feel like fighting back against those
who would be our enemies, help us remember your words to your
enemies from the cross, "Father, forgive."

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.*

Lord, whenever we suffer in any way, keep us near the cross.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.*

Lord, when we are afraid to stand up for what is true and
honorable, strengthen us with the courage with which you went to
the cross.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.*

Lord, when we come to the times of death, uphold us with the
assurance that life did not end for you on the cross.

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one,
have mercy upon us.*

Fill us with the hope of resurrection and new life which your cross
continues to teach us each day. **Amen.**

*– litany written by Rev. M. Ashley Grant, and posted on the website of the First
Congregational Church of Greenwich
<<http://www.fccog.org/2005orderofworship/orderofworship050325goodfridaymorning.htm>>*

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

Musical Offering: Out of the Depths

Closing Prayer

That he can still speak.

That in the depths of his pain and his dying, he does not cease to say what he needs to say.

That as he lets go, he leaves them with words of comfort and release, of lamentation and love.

Forgive. You will be with me. Behold. Forsaken. Thirst. Finished. Into your hands.

Knowing that these are his last words, but not his final ones.

That after this, there will be a span of silence. And that soon the silence will come to an end.

For now, we watch, we weep, we bear witness, we wait.

Amen.

prayer by Jan Richardson, The Painted Prayerbook, found at <https://paintedprayerbook.com/2018/03/27/good-friday-speaking-still/>

The service ends with silence.

Readers: Scott Carson, Ron Stuart, Denyse Nelson, MaryEllen Finlay, Rosemary Feener, Cameron Finlay