

Quispamsis United Church

April 15th, 2022 - Good Friday

Liturgical Colour: Purple/Black

Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley

Musician: Stephen Alexander

Reader: Harrison Hossack

Centering Passage: *Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress; my eye wastes away from grief, my soul and body also. For my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing; my strength fails because of my misery, and my bones waste away.*

-Psalm 31:9-10

Let us gather in silence

Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,

and also with you.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Eloi, Eloi, Lema sabachthani?

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? This cry from the cross rends our soul.

Today we confront the reality of Christ, the One who dies for us on a cross on a hill. The

King of Kings wears a crown of thorns; the Son of God mocked by those who pass by.

With one last cry Jesus breathes his last. Is it over?

The cross,

Calls us to wonder, to praise, and to prayer.

The cross of Jesus Christ,

Calls us to look back on a life of compassion.

The cross of Jesus Christ, God's chosen one,

Calls us to look back on a life of justice-seeking.

The cross of Jesus Christ, God's chosen and loved one,

Calls us to look toward those who are crucified today.

(time of silent reflection)

The cross,

Lift high the cross!

Opening Prayer: On this day, God of all tears, you call us in the midst of our busy lives to look at the suffering and death of the One who came to carry the pain of the world into your heart. Give us eyes to see your love this day.

On this day you would gather everyone to your side, Grace of Calvary, but we leave you to carry the cross alone. You came simply as love incarnate, but hate and bitterness were the gifts we offered to you. You poured out your love so our emptiness might be filled. Give us ears to hear your pain this day.

On this day, you would pray for us, for we cannot find the words on our own, Shattered Spirit. Hear the cries of those in need. Listen to the lament of the lonely. Cradle the whispered hopes of children. Set free the dreams of prisoners and captives. Give us hearts to pray with you this day.

God in Community, Holy in One, we come to you this day to experience the final hours of your Earth-born son. AMEN

Hymn

Jesus Keep me Near the Cross

VU 142

**Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.**

[Refrain:]

**In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

**Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. R**

**Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. R**

**Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. R**

EXPERIENCING Good Friday:

EXPERIENCING the Word

Today we will hear the story of Christ's last week, from Celebration to Tomb. As we do, we will sing and enter into reflective silence. Let us begin this journey together.

(silent reflection during playing of VU#144)

EXPERIENCING The Palms

Scripture: Matthew 21:6-9

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!'

Sing: *Were you there when they welcomed him with palms
Were you there when they welcomed him with palms,
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they welcomed him with palms?*

(silence)

EXPERIENCING The Betrayal

Scripture: Matthew 26:14-15, 47-50

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What will you give me if I betray him to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver.

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him.' At once he came up to Jesus and said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus said to him, 'Friend, do what you are here to do.' Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

Sing: *Were you there when they broke their faith with Christ?
Were you there when they broke their faith with Christ?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble,
Were you there when they broke their faith with Christ?*

(silence)

EXPERIENCING The Denial

Scripture: Luke 22:55-62

When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, 'This man also was with him.' But he denied it, saying, 'Woman, I do not know him.' A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not!' Then about an hour later yet another kept insisting, 'Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.' But Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about!' At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, 'Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.' And he went out and wept bitterly.

Sing: *Were you there when the rooster crowed three times?*

Were you there when the rooster crowed three times?

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

Were you there when the rooster crowed three times?

(silence)

EXPERIENCING The Angry Crowds

Scripture: Mark 15:12-15

Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Sing: *Were you there when they shouted, "crucify"?*

Were you there when they shouted, "crucify"?

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

Were you there when they shouted, "crucify"?

(silence)

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Anthem

EXPERIENCING Jesus' Cry to God

Scripture: Mark 15:33-34, 37

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Sing: *Were you there when our saviour cried to God?*

Were you there when our saviour cried to God?

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

Were you there when our saviour cried to God?

(silence)

Prayer: God of Passionate and vulnerable love, whose body, broken on the cross rebukes us still: Save us, hold us, and forgive us. Strengthen us for what is to come, and give us courage to face a future unknown. Through Jesus Christ, the Crucified we pray. AMEN

Extinguish Christ Candle

Hymn

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

VU 135

**Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand:
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat
and the burden of the day.**

**Upon the cross of Jesus
my eyes at times can see
the very dying form of one
who suffered there for me;
and from my smitten heart with tears
two wonders I confess,
the wonder of his glorious love,
and my unworthiness.**

I take, O cross, your shadow
for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than
the sunshine of his face;
content to let the world go by,
to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame,
my glory all, the cross.

EXPERIENCING The Tomb

Scripture: Mark 15:42-47

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

Sing: *Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

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

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

(silence)

Are we to be left in darkness?

The Light of the world has gone.

Is this the Good News?

Is it over?

Silent Reflection

Take your time to reflect on the gift given and the sacrifice made on this day. Stay and pray as long as you wish. When you leave, do so in Hope knowing that God walks with you, even when all seems lost.