

# Quispamsis United Church

*Lent: The Stones we Carry*

*April 2, 2021 – Good Friday*

*Presider: Rev. Richard Bowley*

*Music Director & Hymn Leader: Stephen Alexander*

*Reader: Sue King*

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*As you enter the building for this service, we ask that you place the stones that you have been carrying through Lent in the fishbowl in the entryway*

## Welcome

## Acknowledgement of Territories

**Prelude**                    O Sacred Head - Woodwind Quintet

## Greeting (Responsive):

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

**And also with you.**

## Lighting the Christ Candle

## Call to Worship (Responsive):

From our ordinary lives we come on this day to be together, because today is different.

**In the midst of the world which holds the promise of spring and new life, we have come to share a story of betrayal and execution.**

Come and hear the tale, come and share the tragedy, come and embrace the darkness.

**And give thanks for the one who carries our sorrows, heals our wounds, and redeems us from sin and death.**

We come to worship today, and what we experience is of cosmic importance.

## Prayer of Approach

**Hymn:**                    Lift High the Cross                    VU 151

### Refrain

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.***

**1        Come, Christians, follow where our Saviour trod,  
the Lamb victorious, Christ the Son of God. R**

**4 Saviour, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
your death has brought us life eternally. R**

**5 So shall our song of triumph ever be  
praise to the Crucified for victory. R**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

**Verse:** Were you There? VU 144 (vs 1)

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

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

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:1-2, 11-31

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time, they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.' Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

**Verse:** Were you There? VU 144 (vs 2)

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

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

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:32-44

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son." ' The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

**Verse:** Were you There? VU 144 (vs 3)

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

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

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Scripture:** Matthew 27:45-50

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for

Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

**Verse:**                    Were you There?  
**Were you there when the earth began to quake?**  
**(Were you there?)**  
**Were you there when the earth began to quake?**  
**Oh!**  
**Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**  
**Were you there when the earth began to quake?**  
**(Were you there?)**

**Scripture:**    Matthew 27:52-56

The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

**Verse:**                    Were you There?                    VU 144 (vs 5)  
**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?**

**Scripture:**    Matthew 27:57-61

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

**Stones Liturgy (Responsive):**

Help us to reach for your hope

**when we are tempted to linger in our pain and fears.**

Even in the Darkness of today, when all seems wrong, when our actions have led to places we do not want to Go. Help us to cry out to you God. To trust that we are not alone in our pain, give us the hope and perseverance to trust that one day the death dealing forces will not win.

**As we cry out at our loss, we ask “how long?” must we wait, help us to see where we have contributed to the suffering of our world and give strength to move forward out of darkness.**

In our grief and regret, in our loss and fear let us witness something new and unexpected. Forgive us for those things that we have unintentionally and intentionally done that have separated us from your plan, from your love and from others...

*(silent reflection)*

In the darkness of this day, in the void that we feel at Christ’s death, In all that is wrong with the world,

**Give us space to grieve, reflect and regroup. Grant us courage to continue to walk in the darkness, and by your grace continue to wrap us in your love. Amen.**

**Anthem**

They Crucified My Lord

*VU 141*

### **Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer**

**Sung Response:** Jesus Remember Me

VU 148

**Jesus, remember me**

**when you come into your kingdom.**

**Jesus, remember me**

**when you come into your kingdom.**

### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

Are we to be left in darkness?

**The Light of the world has gone.**

Is this the Good News?

**Is it over?**

### **Benediction**

*Following the Benediction, we invite you to go out in silent reflection.*

*Go in peace. Wait in hope.*