



# Westminster United Church

**Good Friday Worship Service**

**Friday, March 30, 2018**

Rev. Sherri McConnell, Minister

Don Menzies, Organist

Nathan Poole, Director of Music in Worship

Nicki Kirton, Fred Simpson, soloists

*Welcome to this Good Friday service. In this morning's service, the story of Good Friday will be shared using both the New Revised Standard Version Bible and Eugene Petersen's, The Message. Please note hymns will not be announced during the service. When the service ends, after the tolling of the bells, 33 times to mark what is thought to be Jesus' 33 years of life, we will leave in silence.*

## PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

**The love of Jesus refused compromise with the world's powers and principalities.**

Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

**The love of Jesus took the tough, risky, challenging but faithful road.**

Love calls us here, the love of the crucified One.

**The love of Jesus refused to waiver and struggled to consider the easy way out.**

Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One

**The love of Jesus endured the fear, the denial, the rejection of his friends.**

It is the love of Jesus that calls us here.

### OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN VU 152**      There Is a Green Hill Far Away

### OPENING WORDS

**HYMN VU 149**      When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

## REMEMBERING THE STORY

### IN THE GARDEN (Mark 14: 32-37; 39-42)

Solo: MV 90    Don't Be Afraid

by John L. Bell and Graham Maule

1<sup>st</sup> Candle is extinguished

Silence

**BETRAYAL AND ARREST (Mark 14: 43-50)**

Anthem: Behold the Lamb of God

from Messiah, by G.F. Handel

*2<sup>nd</sup> Candle is extinguished*

*Silence*

**CONDEMNATION AND DENIAL (Mark 14: 53-72)**

*3<sup>rd</sup> Candle is extinguished*

*Silence*

**JESUS BEFORE PILATE (Mark 15: 1-15)**

Anthem: Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs

from Messiah, by G.F. Handel

*4<sup>th</sup> Candle is extinguished*

*Silence*

**CROWN OF THORNS (March 15 : 16-20)**

*5<sup>th</sup> Candle is extinguished*

*Silence*

**CRUCIFIED (Mark 15: 25-32)**

Anthem: He Trusted in God

from Messiah, by G.F. Handel

*6<sup>th</sup> candle extinguished*

*Silence*

**THE LAST (Mark 15: 33-38)**

Solo: Take My Mother Home

by Hall Johnson

*The Christ Candle is extinguished*

*Silence*

## **PRAYER**

One: We come to the cross,

We look up,

We see the broken Christ,

And we pray for those broken in our world.

We pray for refugees who have had to flee from their homes and communities,

We pray for children forced to fight and those exploited,

We pray for those caught in the midst of war and violent forces

We pray for those hated by their neighbours or bullied by their peers.

We pray for those with little voice, oppressed, dominated and marginalized by systems and powers that crush spirits and collude economically, politically, religiously.....

**All: We pray for the broken.**

One: We come to the cross,

We look up.

see the suffering Christ,

And we pray for those suffering in our communities

the homeless,

the abused,

the neglected, the forgotten,

the lonely and the alone

those we know who are sick, for family members, friends, and for members of our faith community...

For those who have lost loved ones and continue to find their way...

For those whose focus is only to survive and have had to put dreams or hopes to one side.

**All: We pray for the suffering.**

One: We come to the cross,  
We look up.

We see an abandoned Christ.

We bring to mind those whose friends have let them down,  
whose fears dominate and control,

We bring to mind the unemployed and rejected,  
children who are not loved; relationships that are not loving

**All: We pray for those abandoned.**

One: We come to the cross,  
We look up,

and Christ surrounds us

We feel reflections of his helplessness,

We are aware of those parts of our own spirits and lives which are  
suffering,

We wish that our friends would be there for us.

We know how, in our deepest pain, we seek to feel God, hear God,  
to know we are not alone

And as we reflect on our own needs,

As we reflect upon the needs of our world

We hang onto a relentless faith that seeks nothing but God

**All: And we wait...**

**Hymn VU 144**      Were You There vs. 1,3,5

**THE BURIAL (Mark 15 : 42-47)**

Solo: MV 90    Don't Be Afraid

by John L. Bell and Graham Maule

*Silence*

**CLOSING WORDS**

**TOLLING OF THE BELLS**

**LEAVE IN SILENCE**

*We leave with somber emotions the story of this day brings, yet with the assurance and knowledge that death is not the final word. Please return to join in our Easter celebration Sunday morning at 10:30.*



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