

Good Friday - April 18, 2025

Congregational responses are in bold. (*) Please stand, as you are able

We Gather As God's People

Prelude... (*this is an opportunity for us to appreciate the gift of music and prepare our hearts for worship*)

Words of Welcome

Preparation for Worship (*We sit in silence; reflecting on the arrest of Jesus our friend and wondering what the future will hold...*)

Scripture: Psalm 22:19–24

***Hymn:** Beneath the Cross of Jesus

VU#135

Call to Worship:

One: In the shadow of our suffering

All: is the suffering of Jesus.

One: In the shadow of our weakness

All: is the vulnerability of the Christ.

One: In the shadow of our pain

All: is the God who cried out.

One: We are never rejected,

All: we are never left alone.

Prayer of Approach

***Hymn:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

VU#149

Presider: What waits within our hidden places?

Sometimes, Jesus the Christ, we never fully know.

We dread to search our souls,

in case we cannot bear

to touch the wounds which lie there,

and the betrayals of our hopes,

or the grieving we cannot bring ourselves to enter.

Within the hidden places we will find our own tears.

The Betrayal

Scripture: John 18:1-11

Presider:

What sounds are hidden in the depths of life?

We hear the weeping of the poor in the distance
and the struggles of desperation and death.

In our hearts we move towards the lost and rejected,
and hear their sighs of longing and loneliness.

In the depths of life we will find injustice.

Scripture: John 18:12-27

Anthem: Man of Sorrows, What a Name

Presider: Starkly standing on the road ahead

are the Jerusalems of our day:

the voices of religion when it betrays its God
and leads the people into judgments of others;
violence against those who are different

and entrenched positions of privilege;

the sounds of the power of money,

and of greed beyond description;

the exploitation of the powerless

and temptations to endless consumption;

the shrieks of pain and fear in war and violence,

amid the threatening sounds of military action

pretending to be the agents of peace.

In the places of power we will find violence:

Scripture: John 18:28-19:16

***Hymn:** Were You There?

VU#144

Scripture: John 19:16b-30

Presider: As we find the courage to enter the darkness,
the cross rises before us.

silence

**We may dare to look at the cross of human deadliness.
Jesus the Christ has moved into all human life.
We are never, ever, left alone.**

The Cherishing

Scripture: John 19:31-42

Anthem: Gethsemane Hymn

Pastoral Prayer

The Lords Prayer

Litany of Commitment

The Committal

There is no part of life which Jesus has not visited.

There is no death untasted by the Christ.

Thanks be to you, O Christ.

In faith, we may leave here all that is deathly in our lives,
believing that it will be absorbed into the Body of Christ
which waits with arms stretched wide
to gather in all our reality for healing, forgiveness, and renewal.

Thanks be to you, O Christ.

silence

Scripture Music: The Crucifixion

Samuel Barber