

**Hybrid Worship for April 7, 2023  
Good Friday**

**Territorial Acknowledgment**

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississauga of the Credit First Nations. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibway and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in their community, and to share and respect Mother Earth.

**Centering Music:** "O God, We Call" VU 411

O God we call, O God we call,  
from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside we yearn,  
from deep inside we yearn for you.

**Call to Worship and Opening Prayer**

One: We gather on a day that is different from others.

**All: Signs of spring and new life surround us,  
but today we are witness to death.**

One: Today we share a story of betrayal and execution,

**All: we share a tale of tragedy and pain.**

One: Holy God, help us to enter into the darkness of Good Friday,

**All: and be with us as we hear and experience this terrible story.**

One: Open our hearts and spirits to your presence,

**All: help us to find you despite the words of denial,  
the words of accusation, the descriptions of torture and death.**

One: Keep the fire of hope alive in our hearts on this Good Friday.

**All: Strengthen us to be here today,  
remind us that you are here with us, as you were with Jesus.**

**You know the ways of the world, God:**

**you have been there; you are here;**

**you have loved and cried**

**and lived and died**

**to be with us, to comfort us,**

**to forgive us and to free us.**

**For this we give thanks.**

**This we call 'good' on God's Friday.**

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn:** “Go to Dark Gethsemane” VU 133

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
you that feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see;  
watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his grief away:  
learn from him to watch and pray.

See him at the judgement hall,  
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
see him meekly bearing all;  
love to all his soul sustained.  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss:  
learn from Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain view;  
there the Lord of glory see,  
made a sacrifice for you,  
dying on the accursed tree.  
'It is finished,' hear his cry:  
trust in Christ and learn to die.

**The Passion Narrative:** John 18:1-19:42 *The Inclusive Bible*

John 18:1-11

After Jesus had said all this, he left with the disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. There was a garden there, and Jesus and the disciples entered it. Judas, the traitor, knew the place well, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. Judas led the Roman cohort to the place, along with some temple guards sent by the chief priests and Pharisees. All were armed and carried lanterns and torches. Then Jesus, aware of everything that was going to take place, stepped forward and said to them, “who are you looking for?” Are you Jesus of Nazareth?” they asked. Jesus said, “I am.” Now Judas, the traitor, was with them. When Jesus said, “I am,” they all drew back and fell to the ground. Again, Jesus asked them, “Who are you looking for?” They replied, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said, “I have already told you that I am the one you want. If I am the one you’re looking for, let the others go.” This was to fulfill what he had spoken: “Of those you gave me, I have not lost a single one.” Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s attendant, cutting off his right ear. The name of the attendant was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back in its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup Abba God has given me?”

Sung Response: Senzeni Na? MV 66

Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na?  
Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na?

Action for Reflection: Destroying the Flower

*In a moment of silence, give thanks to God for the beauty that is represented in a flower.*

*Think of its uniqueness and preciousness.*

*Remember that something beautiful and precious was removed from the world this day.*

John 18:12-18

Then the cohort and its captain and the temple guards seized and bound Jesus. They took him first to Annas. Annas was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the temple authorities that it was better to have one person die on behalf of the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. This disciple, who was known to the high priest, entered his courtyard with Jesus, while Peter hung back at the gate. So the disciple known to the high priest went back and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter inside. The doorkeeper said, "Aren't you one of this guy's followers?" But Peter answered, "No, I'm not." Now the night was cold, so the attendants and guards had lit a charcoal fire and were warming themselves. Peter was with them as well, keeping warm.

Sung Response: Senzeni Na? MV 66

Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na?

Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na?

John 18:19-27

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teachings. Jesus answered, "I have spoken publicly to everyone; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple area where the whole Jewish people congregates. I have said nothing in secret. So why do you question me? Ask those who have heard me. Ask them what I said to them—they know what I said." When Jesus said this, one of the guards standing by slapped him and said, "Is this how you answer the high priest?" If I've said anything wrong," Jesus replied, "point it out; but if I'm right in what I said, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him, still shackled, to Caiaphas the high priest.

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. Others asked him, "Aren't you one of his disciples?" But Peter denied it, saying, "I am not!" One of the attendants of the high priest, a relative of the attendant whose ear Peter had severed, spoke up: "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it. At that moment a rooster crowed.

Sung response: "Bitter Was the Night" VU 132 verses 5 and 6

Bitter was the night,

thought there'd never be a morning.

Bitter was the night,

before the break of day.

Bitter was the night,

thought the cock would crow forever.

Bitter was the night,  
before the break of day.

John 18:28-38a

At daybreak, they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the Praetorium. The temple authorities didn't enter the Praetorium, for they would have become ritually unclean and unable to eat the Passover Seder. So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charges do you bring against this person?" They responded, "We wouldn't have brought him to you if he weren't a criminal." Pilate told them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him by your own Law." The temple authorities replied, "We don't have the power to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill what Jesus had said about the way he was going to die.

So Pilate re-entered the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. "Are you the King of the Jews?" asked Pilate. Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or have others told you about me?" Pilate replied, "Am I Jewish? It is your own people and the chief priests who hand you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My realm is not of this world; if it belonged to this world, my people would have fought to keep me out of the hands of the temple authorities. No, my realm is not of this world." Pilate said, "So you're a King?" Jesus replied, "You say I'm a King. I was born and came into the world for one purpose—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who seeks the truth hears my voice." "Truth? What is truth?" asked Pilate

Sung Response: "O God, We Call" VU 411  
O God we call, O God we call,  
from deep inside we yearn, from deep inside we yearn,  
from deep inside we yearn for you.

John 18:38, 19:1-5

With that, Pilate went outside and spoke to the people. "I find no guilt in him," he said. But according to your custom, I always release a prisoner at the Passover. Do you want me to release 'the King of the Jews'?" They shouted, "Not him! We want Barabbas!" Barabbas was a robber.

So Pilate ordered that Jesus be flogged. Then the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and put it on his head, and dressed him in a purple robe. They went up to him repeatedly and said, "All hail the King of the Jews!" And they struck him in the face. Pilate came outside once more and said to the crowd, "Look, I'll bring him out here to make you understand that I find no guilt in him." So Jesus came out wearing the purple robe and the crown of thorns, and Pilate said, "Look upon the one you accuse!"

Sung response: Senzeni Na? MV 66  
Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na?  
Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na?

Action for Reflection: Tying a Purple Knot with Prayer

*Purple was the colour of royalty, rare and expensive. It was meant as mockery to drape Jesus with this colour. Have there been times when we have joined in denying who Jesus is? Have we had moments when it was easier to “go with the crowd” rather than stand up to power? Take a moment to bring your own confessions to God, and tie a knot as you pray.*

John 19:6-16

When the chief priests and the temple guards saw Jesus, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate told them, “Do it yourself. I find no reason to condemn him.” We have a law,” the Temple authorities replied, “That says he ought to die because he claimed to be the only begotten of God.” When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid. He went back into the Praetorium and asked Jesus, “Where do you come from?” Jesus didn’t answer. Then Pilate said to Jesus, “You refuse to speak? Bear in mind that I have the power to release you—and the power to crucify you.” “You would have no authority over me,” Jesus replied, “unless it had been given to you by God. Therefore the person who handed me over to you has the greater sin.” Upon hearing this, Pilate attempted to set Jesus free. But the crowd shouted, “If you set him free, you’re no ‘friend of Caesar.’ Anyone who claims to be a King defies Caesar!” Hearing these words, Pilate took Jesus outside and seated himself on the judge’s seat at the place called the Pavement—“Gabbatha,” in Hebrew. Now it was almost noon on Preparation day for the Passover. Pilate said to the people, “here is your king!” “Take him away!” they shouted. “Take him away! Crucify him!” Pilate asked, “Do you want me to crucify your king?” The chief priests said, “We have no king but Caesar!” Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

Sung Response:           Senzeni Na? MV 66  
                           Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na?  
                           Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na? Senzeni na?

John 19:17-22

So they took Jesus, carrying his own cross, to what is called the Place of the Skull—in Hebrew, “Golgotha.” There they crucified him, along with two others, one on either side of Jesus. Pilate wrote a notice and had it put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.” The notice, in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, was read by many people, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city. The chief priests said to Pilate, “Don’t write ‘King of the Jews,’ but, ‘this one said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate replied, “I have written what I have written.”

Sung Response:           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?

Action for Reflection: Writing our Truth

*Pilate asked Jesus, “Truth? What is truth?” Take some paper and write your own truth – who is Jesus for you?*

## John 19:23-27

After the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothing and divided it into four pieces, one piece for each soldier. They also took the seamless robe. The soldiers said to one another, "Let's not tear it, we can throw dice to see who will get it." This happened in order to fulfill the scripture, "They divided my garments among them and, for my clothing, they cast lots." and this is what they did.

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother; his mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas; and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Here is your son." Then he said to his disciple, "Here is your mother." From that moment, the disciple took her into his household.

Sung Response:           Were you there with the women keeping watch?  
                                  Were you there with the women keeping watch?  
                                  Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
                                  Were you there with the women keeping watch?

## John 19:28-30

After this, Jesus knew that now all was completed, and to fulfill scripture perfectly, he said, "I am thirsty." There was a jar of cheap wine nearby, so they put a sponge soaked in the wine on a hyssop stick and raised it to his lips. Jesus took the wine and said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Sung response:           Were you there when he bowed his head and died?  
                                  Were you there when he bowed his head and died?  
                                  Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
                                  Were you there when he bowed his head and died?

Action for Reflection:   Snapping the Stick

*Take a moment to feel the wood of the stick – remember that wood of the cross. What is broken in you or your life today? What feels broken in the world? Offer a silent prayer for a person, a situation, or a place – knowing that God holds all our brokenness, all our tears.*

## John 19:31-37

Since it was Preparation day, the temple authorities asked Pilate to let them break the legs of those crucified, and take their bodies from the crosses. They requested this to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the Sabbath, since that particular Sabbath was a solemn feast day. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of first one and then the other who had been crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they found that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced Jesus' side with a lance, and immediately blood and water poured out. This testimony has been given by an eyewitness whose word is reliable; the witness knows that this testimony is the truth, so that you will believe. These things were done to fulfill the scripture, "Not one of his bones will be broken." And again, another scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

Sung Response:       Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
                              Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
                              Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
                              Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

John 19:38-42

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, a disciple of Jesus—but a secret one, for fear of the temple authorities—asked Pilate for permission to remove the body of Jesus, and Pilate granted it. So Joseph came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well—the same one who had first come to Jesus by night—and he brought about one hundred pounds of spices, a mixture of myrrh and aloes. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the Jewish burial custom. There was a garden in the place where Jesus had been crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb where no one had ever been buried. Since it was the day before the Sabbath and the tomb was nearby, they buried Jesus there

Sung Response:       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?

Action for Reflection:   Marking the Cross

*We have become part of the story this Good Friday; we are always part of God's story. We leave our own marks in God's world, just as God leaves his mark upon us.*

**Closing Hymn:**   “The Stone”   (tune ‘O Waly Waly’)

The stone is rolled to seal the grave,  
the soldiers stand to guard the door;  
the years of hope, the hearts of faith,  
cold as the tomb, dead as their Lord.

The tears of anger and regret,  
the cock has crowed, the traitor fled;  
disciples frightened and confused,  
where once was peace, now only dread.

Where can they go, where can they run?  
His words were true, eternal life;  
yet even Christ has felt death's sting,  
sin's curse extinguishing love's light.

We stand with them, with the bereaved,  
stand with the broken, torn and bruised;

we hold our doubts, our tears, our pain,  
and, by our nails, hold to the truth.

There is a sun we cannot see,  
a resurrection yet to dawn,  
a hope that holds us through the night,  
a path that leads to Easter morn.

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**We leave in silence, as we are ready**