

**PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**  
**Sunday, April 7, 2023**  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**Joint Service of the Waterloo United Churches**

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**GATHERING**

**Prelude:** “A View of the Cross” Marilyn Ham  
“A Reflection on the Cross” Heather Sorenson  
*played by Kathleen King-Martin, First United*

**Christ Candle Lighting**

**Welcome-Rev. Heather Power**

On behalf of Parkminster United, myself Rev. Heather Power and my colleague the Rev. Joe Gaspar, welcome to our joint Waterloo United Churches Good Friday service with a special welcome to Emmanuel and the Rev. Brenda Torrie, First and the Rev. Fred Monteith and Westminster United and the Rev. Andrea Allan and student Minister Rebecca Whiting.

**Land Acknowledgment/Statement of Welcome-Rebecca Whiting**

Leader: We begin our service with gratitude and respect as we remember together that this land, this planet, is sacred. We are on holy ground.

**All: Earth is our only home, and we are connected with all who live here.**

Leader: In every season, the Earth offers us wisdom. From the thaw and muck of its arrival, spring begins giving, and this continues through the lengthening days in an endless swell of astonishments. Daubs of green appear in the dark earth, buds turn to leaves, and fresh colour covers the land. Spring awakens in us a hope-filled confidence.

**All: Yet we know that we have not honoured our deep relationship with the Earth. The climate crisis, the devastation of habitats and loss of species, are all calling us to learn and practise better stewardship.**

Leader: The Haudenosaunee, Chonnoton and Anishinaabe have cared for and shared this land for millennia. Generations ago they welcomed newcomers who entered into treaties with them.

**All: Treaties and trust have been broken. We ALL live with the consequences.**

Leader: We seek to live into right relationship with all Indigenous Peoples on whose land we have settled. We commit to listening to and respecting their wisdom.

**All: In this moment of silence, we ponder: What signs of right relationships do we see?**

Leader: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning.

**All: Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.**

Leader: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

**All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.**

Leader: Welcome to each who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

**All: As we come together as church, we hold one another in gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we welcome the great gift of spirit in us, through us, and among us.**

**Ministry of Music:** "Lenten Spirituals" by Michael Helman

*Cast in Bronze Handbell Choir, Parkminster*

**Greeting-Rev. Brenda Allan**

**Call into Community-Rev. Fred Monteith**

F: Gather, friends of the Christ, to hear the story and offer one another support....  
In sorrow, in grief, in shame:

**All: We stand together.**

F: In humility, in sincerity, in repentance:

**All: We stand together.**

F: In memory, in hope, in longing:

**All: We stand together.**

F: In resistance, in solidarity, in compassion:

**All: We stand together.**

F: In faith, in surrender, in love:

**All: We stand together.**

F: Even in the valley of the shadow of death, our God is with us.

**Ministry of Music:** “Lonesome Valley” by Joseph Graham and Brad Nix

*Combined Choirs*

## **EXPLORING**

**Prayer of Preparation-Rev. Andrea Allan**

**All: Holy One,  
this is not the story we want to hear,  
so we give thanks for the courage to listen,  
to be present to harsh truths.  
Be with us in this troubling hour,  
Bless us, on this Good Friday  
with the hearing of a good word,  
for our lives, for our world. Amen**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:1-9, Inclusive Bible-Rev. Joe Gaspar**

‘Who would have believed what we have just heard? When was the arm of YHWH revealed in you? You grew up like a sapling before us, like a root in parched soil! You had no stately form or majesty to make us look at you, there was no beauty to attract us. You were rejected and despised by all; you know suffering intimately, and you are acquainted with sickness.

When we saw you, we turned our faces away; we despised you and did not value you. Yet you bore our illnesses and carried our suffering. We thought you were being punished, struck down by God, and brought low—but it was for our offenses that you were pierced, for our sins that you were crushed; upon you lies a chastening that brings us wholeness, and through your wounds we are healed.

All of us, like sheep, have gone astray; each of us goes our own way. But YHWH has laid upon you the guilt of us all.’ Though treated harshly, you bore it humbly and never opened your mouth. Like a lamb being led to slaughter, or a sheep before shearers, you were silent and never opened your mouth.

Seized by force and condemned, you were taken away; who would ever have foreseen your destiny? You were taken from the land of the living through the sin of my people, who deserved the punishment. You were buried with evildoers and entombed with the rich, though you had done no wrong, and deceit was not found in your mouth.

**Question:** “Who bears the wounds for our transgressions in our lives, in our world?”

**Hymn:** “Were you there when they crucified my Lord” vs. 1, VU 144

***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 Reading: John 18: 1-11, Inclusive Bible-Rev. Brenda Torrie**

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..., 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..., 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?”

**Question:** “In what ways have we betrayed the call to love, in our lives, in our world?”

**Hymn:** “Were you there when they crucified my Lord” vs. 2, VU 144

***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 crucified my Lord?***

**Scripture Reading: John 18: 15-18, 25-27, Inclusive Bible-Rev. Andrea Allan**

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...

...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.

**Question:** “What most challenges your allegiance to a life of faith?”

**Hymn:** “Were you there when they crucified my Lord” vs. 3, VU 144

***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 they crucified my Lord?***

## Scripture Reading- John 18: 12-14, 28-30, 33-36, Inclusive Bible- Rebecca Whiting

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. 14 It was Caiaphas who had advised the Temple authorities that it was better to have one person die on behalf of the people...

...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..."

...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."

**Question:** "What are the powers that condemn love today?"

**Hymn:** "Were you there when they crucified my Lord" vs. 4, VU 144

***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 crucified my Lord?***

**Scripture Reading: John 19: 16-19, 25-30, Inclusive Bible-Rev. Heather Power**

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified. 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...."

...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. 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.

### **Extinguishing of the Christ light**

**Video:** "Have You Forsaken Me"-Work of the People

**Poem: Selected verses from "The Morning's News", Wendell Berry  
-Rev. Fred Monteith**

**Ministry of Music:** "Behold the Lamb of God" by G.F. Handel

*Combined Choirs*

**Reflection-Rev. Joe Gaspar**

**Hymn:** "What Wondrous Love is This", VU 147

## **RESPONDING**

### **Solemn Reproaches**

#### **First Reproach-Rev. Heather Power**

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look and see, the horrible truth of my love rejected. See what your fear has done.

**Verse:** "Jesus, Remember Me", VU 148

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

#### **Second Reproach-Rebecca Whiting**

O my people, O my church, what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you? I lead you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism. Out of love I gave you free will, but you've abused that freedom, choosing fear and scarcity over the grace of faith and abundance, you prepare a cross for your liberator.

**Verse:** “Jesus, Remember Me”, VU 148

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

### **Third Reproach-Rev. Andrea Allan**

I led you through the desert forty years and fed you with manna. I have given you a hunger for me alone, for wholeness and relationship. But you have forsaken me, choosing instead to fill yourselves with possessions, enslaving yourselves to and worshiping the false gods of success and status. You prepare a cross for your saviour.

**Verse:** “Jesus, Remember Me”, VU 148

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

### **Fourth Reproach-Rev. Fred Monteith**

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I gave you the earth, a home full of all manner of things to eat, water to drink and beauty to enjoy. But you have chosen to cut yourself off from the creation, you have put yourself above the earth, the water, the plants, and the animals. In your fear and striving you destroy the natural balance and foolishly destroy yourselves; you prepare a cross for your creator.

**Verse:** “Jesus, Remember Me”, VU 148

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

### **Fifth Reproach-Rev. Heather Power**

I led you forth in the desert in a pillar of cloud, but you have led me to Pilate’s judgment. In the deepest part of you I have implanted my call, your source of joy and meaning and my instrument for healing the world with the gifts I have bestowed upon you. But you no longer listen, you fill every moment with sound and distraction, you prepare a cross for your mighty counsellor.

**Verse:** “Jesus, Remember Me”, VU 148

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***



## Sixth Reproach-Rebecca Whiting

I gave you the keys of the kingdom. I raised you high with great power. I entrusted to you a legacy of faith and love, but you have forsaken that trust, building churches in my name that exist for themselves, creating dogmas that silence my spirit and burdens that exclude and enslave, you prepare a cross for your holy parent.

**Verse:** “Jesus, Remember Me”, VU 148

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

## Seventh Reproach-Rev. Brenda Torrie

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love. You draw the sword in my name and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, but you ran away and denied me. I give enough for all to live in prosperity and freedom, but you want more than you need and are willing to kill and oppress for it, you prepare a cross for the prince of peace.

**Verse:** “Jesus, Remember Me”, VU 148

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

## Eighth Reproach-Rev. Andrea Allan

I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, but you close your hearts and fill your lives with self-willed plans and appointments. I prayed that all may be one, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go out and bear fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, you prepare a cross for the way, the truth and the life.

**Verse:** “Jesus, Remember Me”, VU 148

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

## Ninth Reproach-Rev. Fred Monteith

I grafted you onto the tree of my chosen Israel, but you turned on them with persecution and mass murder. I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants, but

you made them scapegoats for your own guilt, you prepare a cross for the Messiah, a Jew.

**Verse:** “Jesus, Remember Me”, VU 148

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom***

### **Tenth Reproach-Rev. Brenda Torrie**

I come to you as the least of your brothers and sisters. I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not welcome me; naked, and you did not clothe me; sick and in prison, and you did not visit me. You prepare a cross for the One who came to serve.

**Verse:** “Don’t Be Afraid”, MV 90 (sung 2x)

***Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger than your fear.  
Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised,  
promised to be always near.***

~ End ~