

NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

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Music Director: Dustin Bowers

Friday, March 29, 2024 at 10 am

***Maundy Thursday/Good Friday
with St. James' United Church***

Music as We Gather

Welcome & Life and Work of the Community

Acknowledgement of the Land:

As we gather, we acknowledge that we meet and live on the traditional territories of the Mississauga Anishinaabe People. We give thanks for their care for the land over thousands of years and for their deep spirituality and honouring of the Creator and the creation. May we live with respect in God's creation and in harmony with our neighbours.

Call to Worship:

One: In the quiet of this moment in time...

All: the Holy calls us to this place.

One: Called to gather for the intimate sacrament of the Holy meal and the dramatic journey that led from the Upper Room, through Gethsemane, to Golgotha...

All: a journey that both mystifies and saddens us.

One: We are called to worship.

All: Let us worship together.

One: Amen.

All: Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU149 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
 save in the death of Christ, my God:
 all the vain things that charm me most,
 I sacrifice them to his blood.

- 3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,
 sorrow and love flow mingled down!
 Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
 or thorns compose so rich a crown?

- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
 that were a present far too small:
 love so amazing, so divine,
 demands my soul, my life, my all. < >

Opening Prayer

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

^{11:23} For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Music for Meditation

A Few Words: "*Foreboding*"

On the night before Jesus died, they gathered to celebrate a Passover meal. A time to honour and remember the presence of the Holy during the biblical era of Hebrew deliverance in Exodus. A time of reflection and, one could daresay, celebration.

If we listen to the words of institution offered to us through our faith stories as Jesus initiates the Lord's Supper the night of his betrayal, we hear different words – almost words of foreboding about events to come. The readings speak of actions and symbols remembering Jesus through bread and cup – remembering him after his death and honouring his life of miracle, mystery, example and teaching. Words asking us to embrace the intimate presence of the Holy within, around and among us.

What do we take from these words? Do we name the shadows around us and move toward the hope and light of better tomorrows or do we focus on the shadows, letting them consume us? Do we hear the words of the Holy One and remember, honouring the teachings and example of Jesus, or do we rest in our comfortable complacency ignoring the calls to action around us?

Hymn: VU460

“All Who Hunger”

- 1 All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.
- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.
- 3 All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good. < >

First Gospel Lesson: Mark 14:32-42

Bruce Newmaster

(when finished Reader will extinguish the Celebration Candle)

14:32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴ And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” ³⁵ And going a little farther, he threw himself on

the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸ Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹ He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴² Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

Hymn: VU133

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

- 3 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. < >

Second Gospel Lesson: John 18:2-11

Joanne Rorke

(when finished Reader will extinguish the candles on the communion table)

^{18:2} Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches

and weapons. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." ¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Hymn: VU606

"In Christ There is No East or West"

- 1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.
- 2 In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.
- 3 Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.
- 4 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth. < >

Third Gospel Lesson: John 18:33-42

Kathy Common

(when finished Reader will remove the hangings from the Pulpit and Lectern and give them to Kevin)

^{18:33} Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you

about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

Hymn: VU144

"Were You There"

- 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?
- 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?
- 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?
- 4 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?
- 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? < >

Fourth Gospel Lesson: John 19:16-30

Jim Lowes

(when finished Kevin will place the black cloth on the cross)

^{19:16} Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." ²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Responses:

One: Let us hear the story of this holy time and place.

All: Let us be inspired by the story of this holy time and space.

One: Let us enter the story of this holy time and space.

All: Let us sense the Holy in the story of this time and space.

One: In the name of the one called Jesus,

All: Amen.

A Few Words: “Holy Sorrow”

(Following “Holy Sorrow”, Julie will extinguish the Christ Candle)

Music for Meditation

The New Creed:

One: Let’s share together in the New Creed:

**All: We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn: VU142

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.

- R In the cross, in the cross,
 be my glory ever,
 till my raptured soul shall find
 rest beyond the river.
- 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
 love and mercy found me;
 there the bright and morning star
 sheds its beams around me. R
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
 bring its scenes before me;
 help me walk from day to day
 with its shadow o'er me. R
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
 hoping, trusting ever,
 till I reach the golden strand
 just beyond the river. R < >

Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

Dedication of Our Gifts

A Prayer Before We Leave:

Most Holy One, we have gathered in the gloom and grief of the story of this day and night. As we imagine the pain that this story has brought to you – handing over your beloved to the powers of cruelty, opportunity, hatred, and fear – we can only marvel at the depth of your love for us. For it was to show us our true potential to live and love that you came as Jesus to face the worst within humanity. For it was to transform humanity that Jesus entered and endures the harsh reality that can be human existence – pain, anguish, suffering, death – when we selfishly turn away from the love and peace of your hope for us. In your love for us, you endured through Jesus, how frightening humanity can be and we see examples of it in the world around us as well. We see violence because of racism, ignorance, and intolerance; oppression because of selfishness, greed and abusive use of power and influence and through it all, you call to us from the cross to name and acknowledge the worst in human existence so we can change it, move beyond it, and reach our full potential as the human family created out of your love. Hear us in the privacy

of our own hearts as we pray for those people, places and issues that remind us we have so much to learn and so far to go as we live and learn in faith... (Silent Prayer). In the name of one called Jesus, we pray, Amen.

Closing Hymn: VU137 "The Love that Clothes Itself in Light"
(as the hymn is sung, Kevin will extinguish the lights on the cross)

- 1 The Love that clothes itself in light,
 stands naked now, despised, betrayed,
 receiving blows to face and head
 from hands that Love itself has made.
- 2 The Love that lifts the stars and sun,
 collapses, spent, beneath the cross;
 the Love that fills the universe,
 goes on to death and total loss.
- 3 Love, helpless, comes to Calvary,
 rejected, scorned and crucified;
 Love hangs in shame, and dies alone;
 but Love abased, is glorified.
- 4 Extinguished with the sun at noon,
 Love's light transcends all history;
 Love, wrapped in linen, Love entombed,
 still wraps all heaven in mystery.
- 5 Though Love is lost, Love finds us here;
 though Love is absent, Love remains;
 where Love is finished, Love begins;
 where Love is dead, Love lives and reigns! < >

Words as We Go Forth:

One: As our time together comes to an end...
All: the magnitude of this story will depart with us.
One: As the journey to and from the cross continues...
**All: may we know the presence of the Holy. In the
 name of Jesus, Amen.**

*As the service ends, folks are invited
to leave the sanctuary in silence*



Thank you to today's Volunteers

Duty Person
Elevator Operator
Greeters

John Tewsley
Gerry Milburn
Bruce Newmaster,
Mary Hess Northey
Lynn Bartholomew
thank you to all our readers
Alex Brunton/AI Bartholomew

Scripture Reader
Sound

Please join us on Sunday, March 31st at 10 a.m.
for our Easter Sunday Service
