

A crown of thorns is centered on a dark red, textured background. The text "GOOD FRIDAY" is written in a bold, white, serif font across the middle of the crown. Above the text are three small, white crosses. Below the text is a thin, horizontal white line.

GOOD  
FRIDAY



# West River United Church

*... seeking, sharing, celebrating abundant life in Christ*



Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

Andrea Rogers

and all members of West River United Church

Good Friday

April 19, 2019

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THE OFFERING FOR TODAY'S SERVICE MAY BE LEFT IN THE PLATES AT THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY AS YOU LEAVE THIS SERVICE.

CHRIST CANDLE IS LIT

CALL TO WORSHIP *please stand, as you are able\**

**ALL: Into the shadows of chaos,  
Steps the light of the world.  
From the silence of death,  
The Word of God breaks free.  
For the emptiness of our souls,  
The Bread of Life is broken.**

**On this day we gather to remember Jesus our Saviour who loved us and gave himself for us. Let us draw near in full assurance of God's endless love and mercy. We give our thanks and praise to Jesus Christ who carries our sorrows, heals our wounds and redeems us.**

♪ **'What Wondrous Love Is This' – VU 147 (projected)**

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER\*\*\* *(in unison)*

**ALL: Holy God, be near us this morning as we share in this time of worship. When we are troubled by the words we hear, give us courage to listen with ears enlightened by faith. When we are moved by the words we hear, give us strength to face our emotions. When we are reminded of our pain, give us the trust and honesty we need to confess and repent. When we are challenged by the example of Christ's love and sacrifice, give us the inspiration we need to be able to offer ourselves to (...lover)**

**You as disciples, committed to Your ways, regardless of the cost.  
Merciful God speak to us, challenge and inspire us. We ask this in Jesus  
name. Amen.**

**Together we pray the words that Jesus taught us saying,**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by thy name  
thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil;  
for thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION\*\*\* (*in unison*)**

**ALL: God of Palm Sunday and God of Good Friday, we gather humbly before  
you. We confess that we prefer Sunday's cheers to Friday's tears: we  
want the excitement of the parade, not the heart-pounding fear Jesus'  
disciples felt as he was arrested and nailed to the cross. We want the joy  
of the journey of faith, but not the challenges, the fear, the pain. Forgive  
us, loving God, and fill us instead with your faithfulness – a  
faithfulness that led Jesus to the cross, but also to the joy of Easter  
morning. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

**GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION**

**THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST**

**LUKE 22:66-71**

**Jesus before Pilate and Herod**

<sup>66</sup> At daybreak the council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the law, met together, and Jesus was led before them. <sup>67</sup> “If you are the Messiah,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, <sup>68</sup> and if I asked you, you would not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.” <sup>70</sup> They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?” He replied, “You say that I am.” <sup>71</sup> Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

**LUKE 23:1**

Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate.

**LUKE 23:13-27**

<sup>13</sup> Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, <sup>14</sup> and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. <sup>15</sup> Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

<sup>18</sup> But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” <sup>19</sup> (Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

<sup>20</sup> Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. <sup>21</sup> But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” <sup>22</sup> For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.” <sup>23</sup> But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. <sup>24</sup> So Pilate decided to grant their demand. <sup>25</sup> He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will. <sup>26</sup> As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on (.../over)

his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. <sup>27</sup> A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him.

### **LUKE 23:32-24**

<sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

#### REFLECTION

ONE: It's true, they do not know what they are doing...

...it hurts so much. I never imagined such pain. Father, please help me.

### **LUKE 23:35-43**

<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” <sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar <sup>37</sup> and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.” <sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. [a]” <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

#### REFLECTION

ONE: Someone believes in me. What a difference that makes...

...I am not sure I understand the reason myself, you do, and with that I must be satisfied.

### **JOHN 19:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. <sup>26</sup> When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman,<sup>[a]</sup> here is your son," <sup>27</sup> and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

#### REFLECTION

ONE: There are others who believe in me too. These women, so faithful right to the end...

...if they can teach and live the things you taught me, Father, then perhaps I won't have died in vain.

### **MATTHEW 27:45-47**

<sup>45</sup> From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup> About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). <sup>47</sup> When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

#### REFLECTION

ONE: I am alone. I am so alone. My disciples have deserted me....

...God has abandoned me. I am nothing.

### **JOHN 19:28-29**

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.

#### REFLECTION

ONE: It is only sour wine that they gave me, and yet somehow it revives my soul just a little.....may my sacrifice bring your forgiveness to all those in need.

### **JOHN 19:30**

<sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

REFLECTION

ONE: There is nothing more I can do. I have given everything I have to give...  
...now I must live out my own words and die for my beliefs.

**LUKE 23:44-49**

<sup>44</sup> It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, <sup>45</sup> for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."<sup>[a]</sup> When he had said this, he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup> The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." <sup>48</sup> When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. <sup>49</sup> But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

REFLECTION

ONE: You are here. I feel your presence surrounding me, just as I felt you so often throughout my life.....may they know that even as you have been with me this day, you are with them in their times of pain and suffering and sorrow. We are not alone.

A TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

CLOSING PRAYER

ONE: Gracious God, as we depart from here this most solemn of days, help us to reflect upon what we have seen and heard, and to take to ourselves what you have done for us this day.

**ALL: Make us a people of faith and courage in order that we might find our way through these dark hours, as we await the rising of your Son on Easter morning. Amen.**

**HYMN VU 142 'Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross' (projected)**

CHRIST LIGHT IS EXTINGUISHED ALL DEPART IN SILENCE

*Service adapted from K. MacKenzie and K. Falls.*