

**St. Paul's United Church
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
Friday, April 14th 2017**

Ministers – All of the Congregation
With the Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
And the Rev. Bev Irwin
Director of Music: Victoria Warwick
(*Please stand if able)



GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Thoughts to Ponder:

As you entered the church you were given a nail. Hold it in your hand Ask yourself, what does Good Friday mean to me, the world? What difference does it make? As you worship, holding the nail, ask God to help you discover a purpose and meaning for your life, and for all God's people in these times.

PRELUDE:

PROCESSION

WELCOME/CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: God, you are among us, not through control, not by force,
but by the embrace of love.

**All: Your child is among us, born of a woman
this bleeding and broken Jew, who died for us,
that we might be free to stand with our neighbour,
and offer to the world this amazing reality:**

One: You are among us, O Sovereign, in suffering.
A suffering that is unacceptable, unallowable,
forbidden for it is not your intent for us.

**All: Give us, O God, open hearts and clear minds
that we might struggle against
the twin temptation of tyranny and passivity,
that we will affirm how very precious life is,
stand up for the hope that is in it,
and be drawn into new life.
Your will be done in this, your world,
today, and every day. Amen.**

* HYMN

VU#143

“My Song is Love Unknown”

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)

Loving God, we thank you for Jesus, who had great courage, risking even death to bring about a world of love and justice. In our worship today, may we hear and feel your passion, your sorrow, your forgiveness, and your call to follow, to love as Jesus loved.

We pray in his name. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING [John 19: 1-16](#)

CHORAL RESPONSE (VU# 137 vs 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.*

REFLECTION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (responsive)

One: O Holy One, be with us in this dark hour as we face our collective shadow. We do not do the things that make for peace but rather do the very things that lead to violence. We are slow to shed our ignorance and quick to justify our foolishness.

Our planet joins our lament. The lost souls of the extinct animals, and those soon to be gone forever, cry out this day with the Christ: “Why have you forsaken me?”

The poor, the left-behinds, the humble ones living in ghettos from Rio de Janeiro to Calcutta to Port-au-Prince to the forgotten reservations of our own nation, cry out this day, along with the Christ: “Why have you forsaken me?”

May this story break out hearts, our minds, & our spirits wide open, that we might hear Spirit’s cry: “Why have you forsaken me?”

All: Help us to die with the Christ that we might also be raised with Him, and with all creation, and discover our true nature, one with your breaking heart. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

ANTHEM

“Crucified, Forsaken”

SCRIPTURE READING [John 19:17-27](#)

CHORAL RESPONSE (VU# 137 vs 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.*

REFLECTION

