

**St. Paul's United Church  
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
Friday, March 30, 2018**

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)



**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.*



## **SILENT 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** #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**

**ANTHEM:** *"Because You Came"*

## **Readings from the Passion Narrative**

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

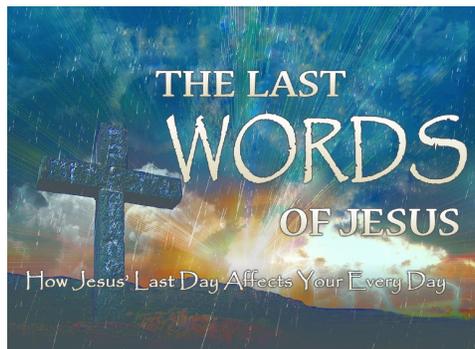
**CHORAL RESPONSE: MV#114 "Behold the Face of Christ"**

*Behold the face of Christ, O Jesus Christ  
O Dying Christ, you die among your people.*

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

**CHORAL RESPONSE: MV#114 "Behold the Face of Christ"**

*Behold the face of Christ, O Jesus Christ  
O Dying Christ, you die among your people.*



**John McCullough**

***"Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing."***

Luke 23: 32-34

***"Woman, behold your son! .... Behold your mother!"***

John 19: 25-27

***"Truly, I say, today will be with me in paradise."***

Luke 23: 39-43

***"My God, my God, why have you forgotten me?"***

Matthew 27: 45-46

***"I thirst"*** John 19" 28-29

***"It is finished."*** John 19:30

***"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."***

Luke 23: 44-46

**CHORAL RESPONSE: MV#114 "Behold the Face of Christ"**

*Behold the face of Christ, O Jesus Christ  
O Dying Christ, you die among your people.*

**SCRIPTURE READING:** [John 19: 31-42](#) – Fran Hill

**CHORAL RESPONSE: MV#114 "Behold the Face of Christ"**

*Behold the face of Christ, O Jesus Christ  
O Dying Christ, you die among your people.*

**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 our 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**

**\*HYMN** #145 "O Sacred Head Sore Wounded" verses 1,2,3

**\*COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

**\*RECESSIONAL**

**POSTLUDE**



*Please leave in silence.*

*If you wish to remain in the sanctuary for a time of prayer and quiet reflection you are most welcome to do so.*

***Please place your nail in the baskets by the door as you leave.***

We invite you to attend the Easter Sunrise service at 7am Little Lake Park, followed by breakfast at St. Paul's and our Easter service at 10am.