



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 April 14

Good Friday

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, economic circumstances, or sexual orientation.

Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.



Friends in Christ

Preludes on *O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded*, various composers

Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Call to Worship:

God of mercy and compassion,

we seek out you today. Please remind us that you do not remain far away or high above.

Instead of you are in the midst of the lowest folks,

in the midst of the hardest emotions and circumstances.

God of mercy pour forth your compassion upon us and grant us the courage to hear the story of this day:

that Jesus was mocked, tortured and killed.

In so doing he proclaimed how far you will come to find us, to heal us and to call us back into your Grace.

Grant us thy Spirit.

Open our hearts.

Hymn: *O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile*

Voices United 136

God's Holy Word

Prayer for Emptying

Silence

Pour forth compassion on all gathered here today.

Grant us courage to hear your Scriptures and imagine ourselves within this Holy story. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Scripture:

Sarah Wiens

Matthew 27: 27-45 • Jesus is Mocked and Crucified

Jesus we remember your final steps today.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Choir: *Misereri Mei*, Antonio Lotti

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

(Text: Grant us Thy great mercy, O Lord. Now in Thy goodness and loving kindness, Lord, Pour forth compassion upon us, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, Forgive our iniquities, we pray Thee.)

Prayers of Confession

Silence

Words of Assurance

Jesus knows what it is like to be human, afraid and in trouble.

He is here to proclaimed how far God will come to forgive us, heal us and to call us back into Grace.

Open our hearts to this amazing forgiving Love.

For Jesus' sake, Amen.

Choir: *Ubi Caritas*, Maurice Duruflé Choir of Robertson-Wesley
(Text: Where charity and love are, God is there. Christ's love has gathered us into one. Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him. Let us fear, and let us love the living God. And may be love each other with a sincere heart. Amen.)

Scripture: Dawn Allan

Matthew 27: 46-54 • Jesus Dies

Jesus we remember your final breath this day.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Prayer of Lamentation

Silence

Words of Assurance:

Jesus knows what it is like to be human, bowed over in pain.

He is on the cross, proclaiming how deeply God will come right into our pain and listen.

Open our hearts.

Grant us thy Spirit.

Choir: *A Litany*, Robin King Choir of Robertson-Wesley

(Text: Drop, drop slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet which brought from heav'n the news and Prince of Peace: Cease not, wet eyes, His mercy to entreat; to cry for vengeance, sin doth never cease. In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears; nor let His eye see sin, but through my tears.)

Psalms 22 Dawn Allan and Norma Johnston

1st sung response:

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?

What wondrous love is this, O my soul?

2nd sung response:

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down....

3rd sung response:

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing.

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.

4th sung response:

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on!

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on!

Scripture: Norma Johnston

Matthew 27: 55-61 • Jesus is buried

Jesus we remember your tomb this day.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Choir: *In Paradisum* (Requiem), Eleanor Daley

Soprano Soloist: Claire Rolheiser & Choir of Robertson-Wesley

(Text: Go forth upon Thy journey, May the angels lead you into paradise, may the martyrs receive you in your coming, and may they guide you into the holy city, Jerusalem. May Thy portion this day be in peace and Thy dwelling place in

Jerusalem. May the chorus of angels receive you and with Lazarus once poor. May you have eternal rest.)

Prayer for Patience and Courage

Silence

Words of Assurance

Jesus knows what it is like to be human, and to die.

On the cross, he proclaimed how deeply our lives can be changed by faith in You!

Open our hearts.

Grant us thy Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

(Voices United p. 921)

Grateful Response

Hymn: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

Voices United 147

Benediction

*Please remain in silence as long as you wish, then leave as you feel ready.
There will be a free-will offering near the doors of the church as you leave.*

Music Notes

The Choir of Robertson-Wesley sings everything a cappella (unaccompanied) today. There's a certain quality of voices alone that can express these intense words so well. Lotti was an Italian Baroque composer, and he was trained and then worked at the famous church of San Marco in Venice, known for its a cappella singing, and the many composers who wrote antiphonal music (music that alternates with two more choirs) for the vast space of that Cathedral. The amazing words "Ubi caritas" have been set by many composers throughout the ages (you would have heard a setting by Welsh composer Paul Mealor at the service last night), and in this case Duruflé honours the original chant that went with this text. Robin King and Eleanor Daley are two Canadian composers who have set words for meditation - a famous poem by Phineas Fletcher and some text from the Requiem mass, respectively.

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Hal Thiessen during Holy Week 2015.

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