

Good Friday – April 15, 2022

WE GATHER IN SILENCE

Welcome

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Call to Worship – based on Philippians 2:5-11 NIV

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature^[a] of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Opening Prayer

O God, we hear the march of soldiers' feet across the smooth paths of stone.

O God, we feel the night closing in, like a blanket over Jerusalem.

O God, we cannot block our ears to the shrieks of violence,
the ghostly echo of betrayal and the crowing of the rooster.

The sounds of a hammer, echo like gunfire,
and in between, the silence, weeping.

We have embarked on this journey, Oh God, taken in your love.

May the sounds and sights of this Good Friday, painfully real in our present world, be our teacher, and our hope until we see a new dawn. Amen.

Hymn: VU 143 *My Song is Love Unknown*

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.

O who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?

He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow,
but people scorned, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But o my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

The Liturgy of the Passion (Luke 22:39 - 23:46)

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

³⁹ Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” ⁴¹ He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” ⁴³ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. ⁴⁴ And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.^[c]

⁴⁵ When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. ⁴⁶ “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

Jesus Arrested

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

Peter Disowns Jesus

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. ⁵⁵ And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶ A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, “This man was with him.”

⁵⁷ But he denied it. “Woman, I don’t know him,” he said.

⁵⁸ A little later someone else saw him and said, “You also are one of them.”
“Man, I am not!” Peter replied.

⁵⁹ About an hour later another asserted, “Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”

⁶⁰ Peter replied, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.” ⁶² And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Hymn: VU 135 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus, vs. 1*

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand:
the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day.

Reflection: Lament.

Liturgy of the Passion (Luke 22:63-23:25)

The Guards Mock Jesus

⁶³ The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him. ⁶⁴ They blindfolded him and demanded, “Prophecy! Who hit you?” ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.

Jesus Before Pilate and Herod

⁶⁶ 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. ⁶⁷ “If you are the Messiah,” they said, “tell us.”

Jesus answered, “If I tell you, you will not believe me, ⁶⁸ and if I asked you, you would not answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the mighty God.”

⁷⁰ They all asked, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He replied, “You say that I am.”

⁷¹ Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? We have heard it from his own lips.”

23 Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ² And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”

³ So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

⁴ Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

⁵ But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷ When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸ When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. ⁹ He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹ Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶ Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

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

²⁰ Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹ But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

²² 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.”

²³ But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴ So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵ 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.

Hymn: VU 135 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus, vs. 2*

Upon the cross of Jesus my eyes at times can see
the very dying form of one who suffered there for me;
and from my smitten heart, with tears, two wonders I confess,
the wonder of his glorious love, and my unworthiness.

Reflection: Confession.

Liturgy of the Passion (Luke 23:26-43)

The Crucifixion of Jesus

²⁶ As the soldiers led him away, they seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. ²⁹ For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the childless women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!’ ³⁰ Then

“they will say to the mountains, “Fall on us!”

and to the hills, “Cover us!”^[b]

³¹ For if people do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

³² Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. ³³ 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. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”^[c] And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

³⁵ 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.”

³⁶ The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar ³⁷ and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

³⁸ There was a written notice above him, which read: this is the king of the jews.

³⁹ One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹ We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.^[d]”

⁴³ Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Hymn: VU 135 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus, vs. 3*

I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face,
content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

Reflection: Hope in Change to Come

The Death of Jesus

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.

The Christ Candle is carried out of the sanctuary

Hymn: VU 136 *O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile*

O come and mourn with me awhile;
O come now to the Saviour's side;
O come, together let us mourn:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

Have we no tears to shed for him,
while soldiers scoff and foes deride?
Ah! Look how patiently he hangs:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

Seven times he spake, seven words of love;
and all three hours his silence cried
for mercy on the souls of all:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

O love of God! O sin-filled world!
In this dread act your strength is tried,
and victory remains with love:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.

Prayer of Confession

With mixed feelings, we go out after supper to pray with you, O Christ.

With anger, we see the way you are met by those who come in force.

With fear, we approach the courts of the mighty where you stand with dignity.

With tears, we greet the sounds of abuse you received.

With dread, we join in your final walk.

With horror, we see you raised up, bleeding.

With stifled sobs, we react to your final breath.

With shame, we flee and hide, Holy One, not trusting Love's power.

Now, as we stand before the cross, as we look at the stains on our hands and hearts, we confess our sin; fear and hatred live on,

and we have tiptoed around them.

Power is abused all around us,

and we have kept quiet.

The shadows that gather, deep and cold,

are in us as well.

We discover that we fear pain and suffering more than we love the good news that was in Jesus Christ—good news for all people, for those suffering and those being crucified, for all creatures and all creation.

In the silences, and in our calling, we pour out our hearts.

Offering Our Confessions at the Cross

(We quietly sing VU 148 "Jesus, Remember Me" as people come to the cross with their offering of confession/lament and hope of change.)

Offertory Response: VU 148 Jesus, Remember Me

(Repeated until everyone who wishes to come forward has done so.)

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Prayers & Words of Assurance

When your good news stirred up fear and hatred, O Christ, you said, "Not my will, but yours be done." May this same love be in us, that all hearts may be opened, and your victory be shared by all.

Death does not have the last word.

Love is stronger than fear.

You are made in the image of God, and Love's power pours out on you, strengthening you to hold fast to the Way of Christ.

Thanks be to God. Amen *(Robin Wardlaw. Gathering. Lent/Easter Year C, 2019.)*

Hymn: VU 149 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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.

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.

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?

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.

Commissioning

May the God who suffers pain, attend to your suffering.

May the God who responds to violence with peace be your peace.

May the God who loves you with undying love, keep you until your dying, and beyond.

Go now in the Spirit of the Crucified One.

God to Jerusalem, to Gaza, to Ukraine,

To all the Golgothas.

Be in solidarity with all who suffer.

Be in peace with all who fear.

Be in love with all the world, in the name of God who is love.

Robin Wardlaw, *Gathering*. Lent/Easter/Pentecost: 2010.

WE DEPART IN SILENCE