

**MEWASSIN UNITED CHURCH
STONY PLAIN UNITED CHURCH
MARCH 29, 2024
GOOD FRIDAY**

Stony Plain United Church & Mewassin United Church
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WELCOME to our service this morning!

Join **Zoom Meeting** via computer (with password) **DO NOT POST ON WEB OR FACEBOOK**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83364019239?pwd=TlEyd2c2aXUra1dDcHdvNlp4Y3Q4UT09>
Zoom teleconference Link info: Meeting ID: 833 6401 9239 Password: 4745
Via phone: +1 587 328 1099 Canada - dial in . +1 587 328 1099 , , 83364019239 - direct

**THANK-YOU TO THE YOUTH OF
OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH
FOR LEADING OUR SERVICES TODAY**

(SP) GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir “Didn’t I See My Lord”
Words and Music: Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively - congregation reads bold print)

One: Good Friday is a challenging part of our faith

All: Yet we gather to find meaning.

One: We remember Jesus’ death upon the cross.

All: We also remember the power of pain and death that lives in our world.

One: We gather with many who live under the power of addictions,

All: Ones who are crucified with Christ.

One: We gather with those whose vocations are threatened; who live in uncertainty,

All: Ones who are crucified with Christ.

One: We gather with the aging...who feel alone, neglected, and forgotten.

ALL: Ones who are crucified with Christ.

One: We gather with our children who fear what the future has in store for them.

All: Ones who are crucified with Christ.

One: We, too, are in pain from our own losses.

All: We too are crucified with Christ.

One: Let us now gather around the cross, which gave death,

All: For we know that in its mystery, God is also present.

HYMN: VU #144 “Were You There” Verse 1 only

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

~ Words African American Spiritual. Public Domain

GATHERING PRAYER:

This is not where we want to be, O Lord, yet it is where your Spirit has led us. We do not want to be beneath your cross, yet we want to be with you. In the mystery of this day, help us find meaning. Amidst the pain of death, help us find your comfort. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we gather in the darkness of this Friday we so boldly call Good. We ask this in the name of the one who hangs upon the cross.

CALL TO HEALING:

Here we are, two thousand years later, remembering the first Good Friday. We prepare to gather on a hill called Golgotha, "the place of the skull," where Jesus is raised up on the cross to die. As we remember Jesus' death, we know that many of the "values" that caused Jesus to be crucified are still at work in our world today. Let us gather together in a time of confession, to pray for our world and those ways of power that rule our world today.

PRAYER FOR HEALING – (Unison):

O God, we confess that our world still has far to travel in order to walk in your Way. We live in a world which no longer crucifies with the cross, but still lives under the power of death. We confess that your children are crucified when our world allows addictions to destroy lives ...

(silence)

We confess that your children are crucified when our world forgets the aging...

(silence)

We confess that your children are crucified when many walk the streets without food and shelter ...

(silence)

We confess that your children are crucified when countries battle over natural resources ...

(silence)

We confess that we, too, feel crucified and without hope ...

(silence)

THE PRESENCE OF HOPE:

Friends hear the good news:

In times of suffering and pain...God is there

In times of loneliness and fear...God is there

In the time of death, even death upon the cross...God is there

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 23: 39-43

(SP) GIFT OF MUSIC: Choir "The Carpenter's Son"

Lyrics: Pamela Martin; Music: Craig Courtney

SHARING THE WORD

A time to reflect upon the nature of crucifixion in our world today

After each section is read, the response is sung, a symbol placed on or beside the cross and we pray in unison. The sung response is **VU #148, "Jesus, Remember Me" for sections 1 through 7 and VU #144 "Were You There" Verses 2, 3, & 4 as indicated for sections 8, 9 and 10.**

CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST

1. Gorges Ximenez - Reason: Crucified - Symbol: old hoe

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #148 "Jesus, Remember Me"

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

Words: Luke 23:42; Music: Jacques Berthier 1978; Music copyright © 1978, 1980, 1981, Les Presses de Taizé GIA Publications, Inc. Words Public Domain

(The Symbol, An old hoe, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

God, we pray for all the poor people of our world who are trapped by forces beyond their control. We pray for the peasants who cannot grow enough food to eat, and those who have been forced off their land. We pray that you will be with them in their struggle. May they discover your strength. Amen.

2. Susie - Reason: Mental Illness - Symbol: a Shopping Bag

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #148 "Jesus, Remember Me"

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

(The Symbol, a shopping bag, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

God, we pray for the homeless people of our world. We pray for those who suffer from mental illness and those who are forgotten by society. We pray that you will walk beside them and they will come to realize that they are not alone. Amen

3. Matt Norman – Reason: Addictions – Symbol: an empty wine bottle

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #148 "Jesus, Remember Me"

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

(The Symbol, an empty wine bottle, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

God, we pray for the drug addicts and alcoholics of this world. We pray for those who are trying to free themselves from the slavery of addictions. Give them the courage they need, God, to make changes in their lives and help them to find the strength that comes from you. Amen.

4. Wayne and Anna Walton - Reason: Fear of Losing Farm - Symbol: a Sheaf of Grain

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #148 "Jesus, Remember Me"

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

(The Symbol, a sheaf of grain, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

God, we pray for those who face a bleak and uncertain future. We pray for farmers, loggers and mill workers, and government employees who do not know where their next pay cheque will come from. Give them hope, God, that they will find a better future. Help us to provide what strength we can to encourage them and support them in their time of fear. Amen.

5. Mary Draper - Reason: Isolation/Loneliness - Symbol: a pair of old eyeglasses

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #148 "Jesus, Remember Me"

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

(The Symbol, old eyeglasses, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

God, for those for whom aging is a trial and a burden. We pray for those who are shut away from the rest of society: the disabled, the mentally challenged, the outcasts, and marginalized people whom society doesn't want to acknowledge or include in its life. Shower your love upon these people, we pray, and open our hearts to include them when others shut them out. Amen.

6. Jasmine and Joshua - Reason: Refugees - Symbol: Children's Shoes

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #148 "Jesus, Remember Me"

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

(The Symbol, Children's shoes, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

God, we pray for the children of the world. We pray for the children who go to bed hungry, and the children who have no love. We pray for children who face violence in their families and children who face violence in their countries. Send your healing spirit on all the children of the world. May they know your love, your reassurance, and your peace. Amen.

7. Sylvia - Reason: Cancer - Symbol: dressing gown

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #148 "Jesus, Remember Me"

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

(The Symbol, a dressing gown, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

God, we pray for people who are sick. We pray for those who face disability, disease, and death. Be with them in their time of trial, we pray. Help their illness become a time of learning and growth. Let your healing spirit flow through all of us, that we may become a healing presence in their lives. We pray in the name of Jesus, the healer. Amen.

8. Wilma and Chris Stanton – Reason: Loss of a Child – Symbol: Photo of a girl

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #144 “Were You There” Verse 2

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

(The Symbol, a photo of a girl, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

Loving God, we pray for all those who grieve. We pray for those who have lost loved ones, husbands, wives, children, parents, family, and friends. You know the pain they feel, God, as you too watched your son die on the cross. Be with all those who hurt. Send them your comfort and reassurance. Amen.

9. You and Me - Reason: Carrying Our Cross - Symbol: a mirror

**SUNG RESPONSE: VU #144 “Were You There” Verse 3
Verse 3**

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

(The Symbol, a mirror, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

God, we pray for ourselves. You know the crosses we carry and the burdens we face. Help us to find strength to continue our journey as followers of Jesus. When we become discouraged, give us hope. When we become exhausted, give us your power to carry on. We pray in the name of Jesus, who goes before us and shows us the way. Amen.

10. Jesus - Reason: God Is With You - Symbol: Crown of Thorns

**SUNG RESPONSE: VU #144 “Were You There” VU #144 Verse 4
Verse 4**

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

(The Symbol, a crown of thorns, is placed beside the Cross.)

LET US PRAY (Unison)...

God, we pray for all those who carry a cross like Jesus. We know the journey is difficult and filled with pain, but through Jesus you have shown us that those who suffer are not alone. You are with them.

CLOSING PRAYER:

We are grateful, God, for the sacrifice Jesus made. He chose the path of crucifixion in order to show us your love. May that love shine out through all of us. May we know that love in our hours of darkness and despair. And may the love of Jesus grow and flourish until it embraces the entire world. We pray in Jesus' name, as we pray the prayer he taught us...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN: VU #144 "Were You There" Verse 5

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

**Our service ends with silence.
You are invited to remain in silent meditation,
and leave the sanctuary when the spirit moves you to do so.**

Note: Today's offering is a retiring offering. If you wish, you may place your envelope on the plate on the table just outside the sanctuary as you leave.

