**Covenant**

***The United Church of Canada***

a safe place for all people to worship

Minister: Laura Hutchison

**COVENANT UNITED CHURCH**

 **APRIL 18, 2025**

**GOOD FRIDAY**



**PRELUDE**

***THE SERVICE WILL PROCEED WITHOUT ANNOUNCEMENT***

*(the candle is lit)*

*(the chime is rung)*

**GATHERING HYMN:** VU # 82 A Light Is Gleaming (verses 1,3)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdfkQwLOyBU>

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms**

**throughout the night, living in the light.**

**Come share its gladness, God’s radiant love**

**is burning bright, living in the light.**

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,

it hurts our eyes to see the glow.

Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,

our memories and tears. **(R)**

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.

He showed us things we hadn’t seen.

Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,

And this will be a sign: **(R)**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND PEOPLE:**

Today, we acknowledge that we are located on the traditional Lands of Mattagami First Nation, Flying Post First Nation, and Matachewan First Nation, home to many Ojibway, Cree, Oji-Cree, Algonquin and Métis people. We acknowledge that we are situated in Treaty 9 territory (also known as the James Bay Treaty), which is steeped in the rich history of many First Nations, Metis and Inuit People.

**We make this acknowledgement as a step in recognizing First Peoples’ long history and living culture, made with respect to Elders, both past and present.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,

**who redeems us from sin and death.**

For us and for our salvation,

**Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord,

**Now and forever.**

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION:**

We come to the foot of your cross, …

offering our love to you.

**God of love and mercy,**

**you sent Jesus into the world**

**so that we might have life and have it abundantly.**

**Yet our lives are often less than you hope for.**

**We have filled the world with violence and terror**

**because we do not trust the way of compassion and service.**

**In the face of uncertainty and trouble,**

**we give up on you and one another.**

**We do not trust the power of your love.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us**

**for the sake of Christ, our Saviour and Lord.**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:**

**HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**HYMN:** VU #143 My Song Is Love Unknown (verses 1,3)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvYKv_rwM6E>

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?

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.

**Hebrews 4:14-16** – The Voice

**Hebrews 5:7-9** – The Voice

**John 18-19** (selected verses)– The Message

**HYMN:** VU # 133 Go to Dark Gethsemane (verses 1,2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD6tcMroY0A>

Go to dark Gethsemane,

you that feel the tempter’s power;

your Redeemer’s conflict see;

watch with him one bitter hour;

turn not from his grief away:

learn from him to watch and pray.

See him at the judgement hall,

beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;

see him meekly bearing all;

love to all his soul sustained.

Shun not suffering, shame, or loss:

learn from Christ to bear the cross.

*Continuing to read from the gospel according to John:*

**HYMN:** VU # 652 Be Still, My Soul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFkMH344Xao>

Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;

bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.

Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,

who through all changes faithful will remain.

Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend

through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul, your God will undertake

to guide the future surely as the past.

Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;

all now mysterious shall be bright at last.

Be still, my soul, life’s tempests still obey

the voice that once the waves’ wild fury stayed.

Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on

when we shall be forever in God’s peace;

when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,

love’s joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.

Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,

all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

*Continue reading from John’s gospel:*

**HYMN:** VU # 661 Come to My Heart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYhNEVH6SU0>

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; come to my heart today.

Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; fill me with love today.

Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; teach me to walk in your way.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; Answer my prayer today.

Give me the peace and joy that only you can bring.

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus; give me a song to sing.

*Continue reading from the gospel*

**HYMN:** VU # 144 Were you There *(verse 1, twice)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4ctSjbWpFU>

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

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

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**LENTEN TENEBRAE LITURGY:**

We have seen the darkness creep into our world, diminishing the light of God.

**We confess that we have been a part of that darkness.**

We confess that the light of God was diminished in our world.

**When we chose to stay in the darkness and avoid rebirth.**

We confess that the light of God was diminished in our world

**When did we not accept the life-giving water that Christ offered?**

We confess that the light of God was diminished in our world

**When we were blinded by our own agendas of injustice**

We confess that the light of the world was diminished in the world

**When we lost sight of the resurrection promise**

We confess that the light of God was diminished in the world

**When we stood silent and denied knowing your Son**

Now God, we stand in fear and darkness, for we have crucified the Christ.

**With him, we say, it is finished.**

**EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE:**

The light shows us the way, but we have come to the end of a road.

It shines in and through us, but our fear diminishes its flame.

It shines in this place when we let it.

Today, as a symbol of the love and grace the world sought to snuff out, we extinguish this candle, and go from this time of worship in peace and in silence.

*(the candle is extinguished in silence)*

**PLEASE LEAVE THE SERVICE IN SILENCE**