

SB, TS, CC & Wallaceburg Pastoral Charges

Good Friday – April 10th, 2020

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome by:

Sharon:

Andrew:

Eric: Today's service will just end - take a moment or two to sit in the silence. There will be no benediction, as we are in the continuous worship of Holy Week, which ends at the proclamation of Resurrection on Easter morning.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Eric: *If you wish – grab a candle to use while we share these services. The flame of the Candle reminds us of the light of Christ that collects us as the faith community, "One in the Spirit". Thanks be to God.*

Call to Worship:

Sharon: We gather at a crossroad. We know not what lies ahead. We know that we will encounter betrayal, pain, and loneliness but we go willingly because we go together with Christ. Let us continue on our journey with courage, hope, and gratitude. Amen.

Andrew: This morning as we continue our journey, let's take a moment to reflect on what has happened so far, as we hear the music and read the words (or sing it if you like).

Opening Song: VU 132 "Bitter Was The Night" (will play as a movie)

- 1 Bitter was the night, thought the cock would crow for ever.
Bitter was the night before the break of day.
- 2 Saw you passing by, told them all I didn't know you.
Bitter was the night before the break of day.
- 3 Told them all a lie, and I told it three times over.
Bitter was the night before the break of day.
- 4 What did Judas do? Sold him for a bag of silver.
Bitter was the night before the break of day.
- 5 What did Judas do? Hanged himself upon an alder.
Bitter was the night before the break of day.
- 6 Bitter was the night, thought there'd never be a morning.
Bitter was the night before the break of day.
- 7 Bitter was the night, thought the cock would crow for ever.
Bitter was the night before the break of day.

Opening Prayer:

Sharon: God of the journey's end, we know that any day can bring both sadness and hope.

Andrew: We are formed and transformed by experiencing the good in each day, and courageously facing the difficulties ahead.

Eric: *Draw us near to each other as you draw us nearer to you, so we may share strength with those who have less and borrow courage from those who have more. Amen.*

Scripture: **Isaiah 52: 13 – 26** ***It Was Our Pains He Carried*** (shared by all three)

Sharon: “Just watch my servant blossom! Exalted, tall, head and shoulders above the crowd! But he didn't begin that way. At first everyone was appalled. He didn't even look human— a ruined face, disfigured past recognition. Nations all over the world will be in awe, taken aback, kings shocked into silence when they see him. For what was unheard of they'll see with their own eyes, what was unthinkable they'll have right before them.”

Andrew: Who believes what we've heard and seen? Who would have thought God's saving power would look like this? The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand.

Eric: *One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was our pains he carried— our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us. We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures. But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins! He took the punishment, and that made us whole. Through his bruises we get healed.*

Theme Story: **“Between Two Gardens”** *The Shanks Family (from across Canada)*

The day started in silence. Jesus took the disciples to a garden he knew, a quiet place where they could sit and pray and wait for what was about to happen. Judas knew the garden, too, and he came there with the soldiers, carrying lanterns and torches and weapons like they were going into battle.

Jesus spoke.

“Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus of Nazareth.”

“I am he,” Jesus said. And the soldiers fell to the ground.

“Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus of Nazareth.”

“I told you that I am he. So, if you are looking just for me, let my disciples go free.”

Peter took out a sword and went after one of the people with the soldiers. But Jesus said, “Put your sword away. It is time for me to drink the cup that God has given me.”

The soldiers took Jesus to the high priest, and Peter and the disciples followed him, waiting outside the gate. Someone asked Peter, “Are you one of Jesus' disciples?”

But Peter quickly answered, “I am not,” and drew nearer to the charcoal fire the police had built outside the gate. For some reason, he felt very cold.

A police officer asked Peter again if he was Jesus' disciple, and again he answered, “I am not.”

Finally, a slave asked, “Didn’t I see you in the garden with Jesus this very night?”

For the third time, Peter said, “No.” And a rooster crowed.

Meanwhile, inside the gate, the high priest asked Jesus about his teaching. Jesus answered, “I have said nothing in secret. Why are you asking me?”

The police slapped Jesus for being rude to the high priest. Jesus said, “Did I say something wrong? Why are you hitting me?”

They took Jesus to see Pilate, who asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Are you the one asking this? Or did others tell you about me?”

Pilate said, “I’m not a Jew! But your fellow Jews handed you over to me. What have you done wrong?”

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world.”

“So, you are a king?”

“You say I am the king. But I say that I testify to the truth, and everybody who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” But Jesus did not answer him. He had said all there was to say.

Pilate said to the crowd, “You have a custom that I can release a prisoner this time of year. Shall I release this King of the Jews?”

But the crowd said, “No! Release Barabbas, the bandit.”

Pilate did not let Jesus go free. Instead, he told his soldiers to whip Jesus. The soldiers dressed him up in a ridiculous costume, a purple robe and a crown made of thorns, making fun of him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” while they hit him in the face.

Pilate went out to the crowds, who cried, “Crucify him!”

Pilate said, “Crucify him yourselves; I find no case against him.”

The crowd said, “He has broken our law because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”

Pilate was afraid. He asked Jesus, “Where are you from? Why will you not speak to me? Don’t you know I have the power to release you or to have you killed?”

He brought Jesus out to the crowds and said, “Here is your king!”

But the crowds said, “We have no king but the emperor. Crucify him!” So, they crucified Jesus on a hill under a sign which read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews,” dividing his clothing among the soldiers.

Jesus looked down from the cross and saw his mother Mary and the disciple he loved. He said to them, “From now on, you must be mother and son to one another.” And so it was.

Jesus said he was thirsty. But they gave him only sour wine. Then Jesus said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Extinguishing the Candle:

Eric: And he gave up his Spirit, and so we extinguish the Christ Candle.

Song for Reflection: “Jesus Died on a Cross for You and Me” – Terry Shanks and St. Luke’s Trio – Good Friday 2018 (Accompanied by Elaine Neville).

Meditation:

Sharon: So here we are, standing where we never thought we could, at the foot of death, crushed under the fickleness of humanity. The heart of heaven has stopped. All that hope, the dreams of peace, the promises of justice you so burned with, snuffed out, with a few nails and a cross beam.

Eric: *O Jesus, what do we do now? What is there left to do?* **Silence**

Andrew: It is a cold place where the breath of heaven stops. It is a frightening place. It is a lonely place. This is what the world does, to love, and then turns its back, rubbing its hands, finished with its final enemy.

Eric: *O Jesus, what do we do now? What is there left to do?* **Silence**

Sharon: The Saviour had died, and the future can seem lost, out of our grasp. Light is swamped.

Eric: *O Jesus, what do we do now? What is there left to do?* **Silence**

Andrew: *What do we do now? We wait beyond eternity...*

Sharon: *We hope beyond every hope we've ever had...*

Andrew: *We trust beyond belief...*

Sharon: *in a God who cannot leave it here.*

Benediction:

The service ends without a formal benediction, for it is an unfinished part of the continuous worship of Holy Week, which does not conclude until the pronouncement of resurrection at Easter vigil or Easter morning.

Soft Music for reflection: