

# ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave, New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Friday, March 30, 2018 – 10:30 am

### Good Friday Service

\* Please rise in body and/or spirit

#### Music Prelude

\* Clergy and Choir Enter

\* Call to Worship:

One: After he taught them, Jesus led his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a garden where they had often met.

All: **Jesus, we have followed you along roads and highways to this place where we also have often met with you.**

One: Evil marched into the peaceful garden and Jesus' death drew near, as his disciples betrayed, denied and agonized.

All: **And in this peaceful place, we remember those fearful events. Help us to recognize our role in your crucifixion, and to accept the love for which you endured it.**

Prayer:

**Holy God, who has opened our ears to hear your Word and our lips to proclaim your truth: open our eyes this day to see in the cross the revelation of your love; through Jesus the Crucified, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, be honour and praise, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn: "Lift High the Cross" VU #151

1<sup>st</sup> Station: "Jesus Prays Alone"

Scripture: Luke 22:39-44

#### Reflection

Prayer:

**Jesus, we speak with more courage than we feel. Help us in the confusion and fears that mark our lives. We know that there are adversaries all around us. Sometimes we join them, in spite of our best intentions. Lift us from our weariness that we may stand up together against wrong. Awaken us to your truth, so we may become faithful witnesses to your glory. Amen.**

2<sup>nd</sup> Station: "Jesus Is Arrested"

Scripture: Matthew 26:47-56

#### Reflection

Prayer:

**Eternal God, we remember how Jesus' friends ministered to him in the closing days of his earthly life. Help us now to stand with him, taking up the mandate of justice for all and giving ourselves unselfishly to the proclamation of your love, that our common life may be transformed and your people set free. Amen.**

Anthem: "O Could You Not Watch?"

3<sup>rd</sup> Station: "The Sanhedrin Tries Jesus"

Scripture: Mark 14:60-64

#### Reflection

Prayer:

**Jesus, help us to learn from you how to be humble and forgiving. Teach us to love one another with a love that does not bear grudges or remember wrongs. Free us from the prisons we have created for ourselves. May your salvation be made real to us in this hour. Amen.**

4<sup>th</sup> Station: "Pilate Tries Jesus"

Scripture: John 18:33-37

#### Reflection

**Prayer:**

God of mercy and judgement, whose ways are not our ways, we seek your protection and courage, that we may dare to stand against principalities and powers that deny the humanity of our sisters and brothers. May all people live in a loving environment with their needs met. Help us all to reach out in caring ways to one another. Amen.

**Hymn:** "O Sacred Head" VU #145 vss. 1,2

**5<sup>th</sup> Station:** "Pilate Sentences Jesus"

**Scripture:** Mark 15:6-15

**Reflection**

**Prayer:**

Isaiah wrote, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned to our own way, and God has laid on him the iniquity of us all." The early church saw that Jesus was the fulfillment of Isaiah's words. We come now, seeking to turn away from everything that keeps us from the wholeness God intends for us. Amen.

**6<sup>th</sup> Station:** "Jesus Wears a Crown"

**Scripture:** John 19:1-3

**Reflection**

**Prayer:**

God of all our days, whose love is with us in our times of deepest loss and pain, we put our trust in you today as pictures flash through our minds – soldiers, swords, a fire in the courtyard of the High Priest, Pilate's headquarters, a crown of thorns, jeering crowds... Open our emotions and strengthen our commitment that our discipleship may help some other traveler on life's way. Amen.

**Hymn:** "O Sacred Head" VU #145 vss. 3,4

**7<sup>th</sup> Station:** "Jesus Carries His Cross"

**Scripture:** John 19:17-18

**Reflection**

**Prayer:**

Suffering God, whose compassion is with all your children in their times of need, and whose purposes will prevail, take us once more to Calvary to face the cross. Let us share the experience of loneliness, rejection and pain so we can be strengthened to live as your people. Amen.

**8<sup>th</sup> Station:** "Simon Carries the Cross"

**Scripture:** Luke 23:26

**Reflection**

**Prayer:**

Jesus, we don't want to carry our own crosses, let along someone else's. You died out of love for us. Give us strength to live for you; and to bear one another's burdens. Help us with your grace that we may be aware of your will for us always. Amen.

**9<sup>th</sup> Station:** "Jesus Speaks to the Women"

**Scripture:** Luke 23:27-30

**Reflection**

**Prayer:**

O God, your tears fall as judgement on us. We fail to realize the pain and sorrow we cause when we stray from your path. You have borne our grief and carried our sorrows. Forgive us, Lord, and strengthen our resolve to follow you. Amen.

**Hymn:** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" VU #135

**10<sup>th</sup> Station:** "Jesus Is Crucified"

**Scripture:** Luke 23:33-34

**Reflection**

**Prayer:** *(silent individual meditation)*

**11<sup>th</sup> Station:** "Criminals Speak to Jesus"

**Scripture:** Luke 23:39-43

**Reflection**

**Prayer:**

**Jesus, so many times we have been so selfish in our pain that we forget that others too feel pain. Sometimes we have forgotten to offer help, and have violated your commandment that we love one another. Remember us, when you come into your glory. Amen.**

**12<sup>th</sup> Station: "Jesus Speaks to Mary & John"**

**Scripture: John 19:25-27**

**Reflection**

**Prayer:**

**In the loneliness of Good Friday, we come to you, O God, wondering how to find your will in the midst of tragedy. All the grief and sorrow we have known is rekindled at the cross. The pain is more than we can bear. Thorns and nails and bitter tears cannot be your intent for your children. Where is truth to be found in all of this? Silent God, answer our cries. Amen.**

**13<sup>th</sup> Station: "Jesus Dies on the Cross"**

**Scripture: John 19:28-34**

**Reflection**

**Prayer:**

**Jesus, you died for us, and we mourn your death. Help us to die each day to our sins. We know that, through you, "It is finished!" There is nothing left for us to do, but to trust and believe! In your name. Amen.**

**14<sup>th</sup> Station: "Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb"**

**Scripture: John 19:38-42**

**Reflection**

**Prayer:**

**Gracious God whose faithfulness is constant, we hope in your steadfast love. With the disciples, we reverently carry the body of Jesus, seeking to be joined together in the body of Christ, your holy church. Prepare us now for resurrection, that all your children may be brought to life. Amen.**

**Offertory**

**Offertory Prayer:**

**With the cross of Christ before us, we present our offerings in this time and place of worship, that we might live for Christ and all that he lived for, and that our world might be a place of justice and peace for all God's people. Amen.**

**Hymn: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" VU #149**

**Dismissal:**

**One: May you find in the cross a sure ground for faith, a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven. And may the blessing of God go with you, now and forevermore. Amen.**