

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

Box 22, 9256 Commercial St., Unit A005

New Minas, NS B4N 4A9

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Friday, April 15, 2022, 10:00 am

Good Friday

Music as We Gather

Gathering

Lighting of the Outreach, Unity and Christ Candles

- * Introit:** “Come, We That Love the Lord” VU #715 vs.1
Come, we that love the Lord,
and let our joys be known,
join in a song with sweet accord,
and thus surround the throne.

Opening Words

*** Call to Worship:**

The gift of myrrh went from manger to cross. Mary and Joseph said thank you to the kings, but Jesus, on the cross, when offered wine with myrrh, said no.

**There are times when we, too, must go heartlong
into our pain, knowing it's the only way we will get
to Easter living.**

- * Hymn:** “O Love, How Deep” VU #348
O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, in Jesus Christ, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

God sent no angel to our race
of higher or of lower place,
but wore the robe of human frame,
and freely to this lost world came.

For us he was baptized, and bore
a holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharply knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.

For us he prayed, for us he taught,
for us great daily works were wrought,
by words and signs, and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.

For us to wicked foes betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us at length gave up his breath.

For us he rose from death again,
for us he went on high to reign,
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.

To God whose boundless love has won
salvation for us through the Son,
to God all praise and glory be
both now and through eternity.

*** Opening Prayer:**

God of passionate and vulnerable love, we gather as your faithful people, trusting in your presence with us in the darkest night ... and the brightest day. Hold us in your love, O God, and draw us near, as we journey with Jesus to the cross. Amen.

Introduction

The Palm Parade

We remember how our story began with a hero's welcome, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the crowds embraced him and celebrated. It was a day of joy and festivities.

Matthew 21:6-11

(Palms and extinguish candle)

*Were you there when they waved the palms and sang?
Were you there when they waved the palms and sang?
Oh-oh-oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.*

Were you there when they waved the palms and sang?

The Last Supper

Later that same week, Jesus and the friends he dearly loved celebrated the Holy Passover meal. They gathered alone in the upper room.

Matthew 26:26-30

(Communion Cup/plate and extinguish candle)

Were you there when he served them bread and wine?...

Jesus as Servant

In that room where they shared a meal, Jesus taught those who loved him to follow his ways, to be servants to one another.

John 13:3-5, 12-15

(towel and basin and extinguish candle)

Were you there when he washed their feet with love? ...

The Betrayal

What Jesus offered was met with betrayal. Money was exchanged for love.

Matthew 26:14-16

(Coins and extinguish candle)

Were you there when they sold him for some coins? ...

The Denial

Some thought they would always remain loyal to Jesus. But as events unfolded even those closest to him denied that they ever knew him.

Matthew 26:33-36; 69-74

(Crown of Thorns and extinguish candle)

Were you there when they came with swords and clubs? ...

Sentenced to Death

In the end, even the crowds that had welcomed him with palms chose to hand Jesus over to death.

Matthew 27:27-31; 45-50

(Nails/Mallet and extinguish candle)

Were you there when they nailed him to a tree? ...

(Extinguish the Christ Candle)

Reading: "No Dances" *by Ann Weems*

There are no dances for dark days.
There is no music to bellow the pain.
The best we can do is to remain still and silent
and try to remember the face of God...
and how to kneel ... and how to pray.

Anthem Thy Will be Done **Choir**

Sermon **Sunday's Coming**

Reading: "Friday" *by Ann Weems*

The sky peels back to purple
and thunder slaps the thighs of heaven,
and all the tears of those who grieve
fly up to clouds and are released and drench the earth.
The ones who see and hear know that all is lost.
The only One named Savior died upon a cross.
The ones who believed and loved
huddle together ... stunned.
All night long the angels weep.

Prayer

Good Friday God, as we stand at the foot of the cross,
we see the broken Christ
and we pray for all who are broken, including ourselves
for those of us who have a song we cannot sing
for those of us who have a burden we cannot bear
for those of us who live with fears we cannot overcome

for those of us who are ill,
and those of us who care for the ill
for those of us who wait for loved ones
for those of us who wait for death
for those of us who live in hunger,
and for those of us who will not share our bread
for those of us who are misunderstood,
and for those of us who misunderstand
for those of us who make bad choices,
 at the expense of others
for those of us whose love is locked within our hearts,
and for those of us who long to receive that love .
Have mercy upon us, O God. Have mercy upon us all.
Amen.

Reading:

“Even Now”

by Ann Weems

She stands
 beneath his dying
and will not be persuaded to leave,
 despite the urgings of others.
They huddle against her
 in an effort to hold her
 against the pain,
 but she stands erect,
 unleaning,
 her eyes upon his face.
From the hillside
the sounds of weeping and wailing
 hang heavy in the air,
 but she who held him

in a stable in Bethlehem
stands silent
beneath his cross in Jerusalem,
her heart pondering still,
her soul magnifying the Lord,
her spirit praising God,
knowing even now
that she is blessed among women.

*** Hymn:** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

VU #135

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.

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.

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.

Prayer *adapted from Voices United #140*

**Crucified Saviour, grieving,
we dare to hope, as we wait at the cross
for the dawning of a new and glorious morning.**

We Leave in Silence

*Our service has not yet ended. We continue our worship
service throughout today, through Holy Saturday, and come
together again Easter morning to worship, celebrate, and
conclude our service so we can go out into the world
knowing we have been forgiven, and can make a difference.*