



ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH

130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Friday, April 3, 2026, 7:00 pm

Good Friday

Prelude from *Wondrous Love* *offered by Carmen Peng*
Tonight's Choir music is from Wondrous Love,
a Tenebrae Service by John Carter

*** Congregational Introit:** "Spirit Come" *by D. MacGregor*
Spirit Come, Spirit Come, Spirit Come, Spirit Come
Open our eyes, open our hearts Come, Spirit Come
(Repeat)

Gathering

Call to Worship:

Come, let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ.

We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.

Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken savior on a cross?

Certainly not us! Not us, who are too often, lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities. Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.

Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid. Let us

live our lives in a way that indicates why this Friday is called "Good."

**Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven,
that we might have the faith, hope, and love,
witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.**

* Hymn:

"God Weeps"

MV #78

God weeps
at love withheld
at strength misused
at children's innocence abused,
and till we change
the way we love,
God weeps.

God bleeds
at anger's fist,
at trust betrayed,
at women battered and afraid,
and till we change
the way we win,
God bleeds.

God cries
at hungry mouths,
at running sores,
at creatures dying without cause,
and till we change
the way we care,
God cries.

God waits
for stones to melt,
for peace to seed,
for hearts to hold each other's need,
and till we
understand the Christ,
God waits.

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Christ, at times we act as if we do not know you, at times we say of you, "Away with him!" When we think of those times we weep and ask you to forgive us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Take heart, for we have a high priest, Jesus Christ, God's Son, who understands our human experience and sympathizes with our weakness. He deals gently with the wayward and is the source of our strength and hope.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Choir: “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face”

Introduction:

Station One: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:36-41

Station 2: Jesus is Betrayed by Judas

Mark 14:43-46

Choir: “Bread of Heaven, on Thee We Feed”

Station 3: Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin

Luke 22: 66-71

Station 4: Peter denies Jesus

Matthew 26: 69-75

*** Hymn:** “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

VU #133

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.

Calvary's mournful mountain view;
there the Lord of glory see,
made a sacrifice for you,
dying on the accursed tree.
'It is finished,' hear his cry:
trust in Christ and learn to die.

Station 5: Pilate condemns Jesus

Mark 15: 1-5, 15

Station 6: Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns

John 19:1-3

Choir: "Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow"

Station 7: Jesus Bears the Cross

John 19: 6, 15-17

Station 8: Simon of Cyrene Carries the Cross

Mark 15: 21

* **Hymn:** "Said Judas to Mary" VU #129 vs. 1,4-6

Said Judas to Mary, 'Now what will you do
with your ointment so rich and so rare?'
'I'll pour it all over the feet of the Lord
and I'll wipe it away with my hair,' she said,
'wipe it away with my hair.'

Said Jesus to Mary, 'Your love is so deep,
today you may do as you will.
Tomorrow you say I am going away,
but my body I leave with you still,' he said,
'my body I leave with you still.'

‘The poor of the world are my body,’ he said,
‘to the end of the world they shall be;
the bread and the blankets you give to the poor
you’ll know, you have given to me,’ he said,
‘you’ll know you have given to me.’

‘My body will hang on the cross of the world,
tomorrow,’ he said, ‘not today,
and Martha and Mary will find me again
and wash all my sorrow away,’ he said,
‘wash all my sorrow away.’

Station 9: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Luke 23:27-31

Station 10: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Luke 23: 33-34

Choir: “What Wonderous Love Is This”

Station 11: Jesus Entrusts Mary to John

John 19:26-27 (at the Foot of the Cross)

Station 12: Jesus dies and is laid in the tomb

Luke 23:46-53

Choir: “When I Survey the Wonderous Cross”

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.

Litany of Diminishing Light:

The parade is over. The laments, the denials, the excuses,
the betrayals are over. In fact, it is all over. Shadows have
replaced light; fear has swallowed hope. It is finished.

What now?

(The Christ Candle is extinguished)

* **Hymn:** “They Crucified My Lord” VU #141

They crucified my Lord,
and he never said a mumbalin’ word;
they crucified my Lord,
and he never said a mumbalin’ word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.

They nailed him to a tree,
and he never said a mumbalin’ word;
they nailed him to the tree, **R**

They pierced him in the side,
and he never said a mumbalin’ word;
they pierced him in the side, **R**

The blood came trick’lin’ down,
and he never said a mumbalin’ word;
the blood came trickalin’ down, **R**

He bowed his head and died,
and he never said a mumbalin’ word;
he bowed his head and died, **R**

Closing Benediction

Gracious God, as we depart from here this most solemn of evenings, we know our service has not ended. We have been faithful to our friend and stayed with him in his suffering and death.

This night, as people of faith and courage, we find our way through these dark hours, as we leave this unfinished story to await the rising of your Son on Easter morning.

Being a people of hope, we wait, we trust, and we pray even without knowing how the story ends, we remember Jesus...we remember we were here...

Choir: “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord”

We suspend our service now as we depart in silence...