

Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> 2020

Hagersville and Springvale United Churches

Pastor Peggy E. Bartlett

GOOD FRIDAY

They shouted

"Crucify him  
crucify him!"

Pilate asked

"Shall I crucify  
your King ?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor."  
Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus;  
and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to The Place of the Skull

There they  
crucified him  
and with him  
two others,  
one on either  
side with Jesus  
between them.

Pilate also had  
an inscription  
written and put  
on the cross.

It read "Jesus  
of Nazareth, the  
King of the Jews.

Prayer of Approach

Gracious God, on this day we gather to remember the suffering death of Jesus. He was despised and rejected, oppressed and afflicted, yet he was prepared to be wounded for our transgressions. In his willingness to make us righteous, he poured himself out to death, even death on a cross, and so, in response to such love and sacrifice, we commit ourselves as his disciples to overcome evil with good, suffering with wholeness, and oppression with justice. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Hymn #144 Were You There verses 1&2

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

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

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

### **Litany of Confession**

Leader: On this, a most faithful and a most fateful day in the long history of God's people, we reach the climax in the unfolding drama of the life and ministry of Jesus.

People: We confess, O Lord, that this is a fateful day because we have been a faithless people.

Leader: We have been too much like the innkeeper, who could not find room in his inn for Jesus; and the rich young ruler, who could not find room in his life for Jesus; and even Herod, who could not find room in his world for Jesus.

People: We confess, O Lord, that this is a fateful day because we have been a faithless people.

Leader: We have been too much like James and John, who promised to follow you, but demanded the choice seats in your kingdom; and Peter, who hailed you as the Christ, but denied knowing the suffering servant; and even Judas, who loved you much, but betrayed you for thirty pieces of silver.

People: We confess, O Lord, that this is a fateful day because we have been a faithless people.

Leader: We have been too much like the Pilate who wanted to release Jesus, but released Barabbas; and the Pilate who could find no fault in Jesus, but left him to the mercy of those who did; and even the Pilate who could have prevented the crucifixion, but chose instead to wash his hands.

People: We confess, O Lord, that this is a fateful day because we have been a faithless people.

Leader: As we recall the cross you chose to bear in taking our side, we remember the crosses we have shunned to avoid taking your side.

All: O Christ, who was faithful to God unto death, grant us the grace to be faithful unto you in life. This we ask in grace in the name of our Lord and Saviour who taught us to pray saying....Our Father who art in heaven

### **Hymn #144 Were You There verse 3&4**

3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

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

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

4. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

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

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

## **Voices Around the Cross (based on John 18:1-24&42; 19:16a-40)**

### **Narrator**

When Jesus was crucified, most of his friends and disciples abandoned him.  
Only a few people were there to witness the last hours of his life.  
As they gazed upon Jesus in those final moments, what did they see?  
What thoughts and feelings might have weighed upon their hearts?

### **John**

He had called me and I followed him.  
Last night, I leaned my head against his shoulder and listened to his words -  
words that came from God.  
His words always spoke of the love of the One who sent Him.  
But, He wouldn't speak to those who accused Him -  
there were no words of hatred or revenge.  
He spoke the words of God -  
and now those words are being silenced by the violence of men.

### **Narrator**

The Word of God is still silenced by violence and cruelty.  
The Word of God is stifled by fear and embarrassment.  
For the times when we have stood by  
and allowed the Word to be suppressed and silenced....  
let us ask the Father's forgiveness.

### **Mary Magdalene**

He called my name and He loved me.  
His touch brought me back to life.  
To touch Him now would only make His agony worse.  
I cannot say good-bye.  
They have wrenched Him away from me - and nailed Him ....  
nailed Him...  
nailed Him to a tree.  
My heart breaks with the pain of such a parting from the One I love.

### **Narrator**

Those who love are still wrenched apart by cruel hands.  
There is no chance to say good-bye.  
There is no way to ease the pain of parting.  
For the times we have been immune to the pain of refugees,  
ignored the cries of those in an agony of separation,  
we ask the Father's forgiveness.

### **Mary**

A sword shall pierce my heart -  
where did those words come from-  
echoing round and round in my head?  
A sword shall pierce my heart -  
yet the Almighty has done great things for me...  
I do not understand.  
My spirit rejoiced in God, my saviour -  
for He looked on my lowliness and raised me up..  
Now my son, the promised one is raised up...  
he cries out in agony and abandonment:  
My God, my God, why have You forgotten me?  
God, our God, why have You forgotten us?

### **Narrator**

People still stand at the foot of the cross,  
sharing the agony of those they love;  
witnessing the anguish of abandonment by those who could make a difference  
the people with power and authority.  
They wonder where God has gone.  
For the times when we have allowed people to be abandoned to evil forces;  
when we have failed to act or speak on their behalf,  
we ask the Father's forgiveness....

### **Dismas**

I hurt.  
Nails through my hands and feet.  
Death, come quickly.  
The one they call Jesus-  
he doesn't deserve this.  
It ends here...no hope.  
I don't want to die....I don't want to be lost forever...  
Jesus, remember me when You come into Your Kingdom.

### **Narrator**

To lose hope is the worst agony.  
To be afraid of oblivion, part of the human condition.  
To call on the name of Jesus is a sign of hope in despair.  
For the times when we have lost hope  
and given way to fear, failing to call on the name of Jesus,  
we ask the Father's forgiveness.

### **Soldier**

It's just a job - not the best sort - but part of the job of keeping order.  
We can't have people going around preaching revolution.  
If they won't keep quiet, then the law has to take its course.  
My job is to make sure the it's done efficiently.  
This one's different, though. I'm not sure how.  
Not many of them ask for us to be forgiven - makes you think....  
It was when he did that - asked his father to forgive us...

this one's different....  
Maybe he really is the Son of God...

**Narrator**

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.  
For God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world,  
but so that through Him the world might be saved.

**John**

The Word became flesh and lived among us...  
But the world, though it had its being through Him, did not recognise Him.  
But to all those who do recognise Him,  
He gives the power to be children of God.

**Narrator**

The Word of God is alive and well - in Bibles, songs and prayers.  
In the face of bitter persecution  
or the world's apathy,  
Christians still find ways to hear and live the Word of God.  
The Word cannot be silenced:  
Blessed be the Lamb of God.

**Mary**

I will not leave him.  
I will hear him call my name for ever.  
We will walk again in a garden  
He and I  
We will walk - and never be parted.

**Narrator**

Soon, very soon, children will be returned to the arms of their parents,  
the loved and lost will be reunited.  
Soon, very soon, the forgotten prisoner will receive a letter  
and know that someone knows his name.  
Soon, very soon, the pain of parting will give way to radiance of joy in reunion:  
Blessed be the Lamb of God.

**Mary**

My beloved Son, whom I loved as only a mother can love.  
Walking alongside Him through the valley of the shadow of death-  
so that He should know that He was not alone.

**Narrator**

Only one who has suffered can walk alongside those who suffer;  
only one who has known the anguish of seeing the suffering and dying of a loved one can understand the depths  
of pain and grief.  
One woman, gentle and humble in heart,  
walks eternally alongside her suffering children,

until the day all are reunited in the City of God:  
the new Jerusalem, lit by the light from the throne of the Lamb:  
Blessed be the Lamb of God.

### **Dismas**

He promised that I would be with Him in paradise.  
I was a waster - a failure, scum of the earth,  
yet He didn't turn me away.  
Lots of people thought He was a failure too,  
that He was scum too.  
They were wrong, though - and some of them will never even realise just how wrong.

### **Narrator**

Jesus came into the world,  
not to condemn the world but to save it.  
He was despised and rejected,  
and shared the lot of the poor and wretched.  
But His humility, His obedience, even to accepting death  
death on a cross,  
means that God has raised Him high  
and given Him the name which is above all other names;  
so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld  
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus  
and that every tongue should acclaim  
Jesus Christ as Lord.

### **Reader**

Then I looked and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands and thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing."  
Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,  
"To the One seated on the throne and to the Lamb  
be blessing and honour and glory and might  
forever and ever! Amen."

### **Hymn #144 Were You There verses 5&6**

5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

6. Were you there when he rose up from the dead?  
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?  
6. Sometimes I feel like shouting 'Glory, glory, glory!'  
Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

### **Let Us Pray...**

Christ Jesus you hung upon a cross and died for us,  
So that we might live for you.  
Your body was broken and your blood shed,  
So that we might be healed and made whole.  
You were faithful unto death ,  
So that we might be faithful unto life.  
Your last command was that we might love one another,  
One family together from every tribe and nation,  
A new creation united through your sacrifice.  
Redeemed by your blood, healed by your love,  
United by your covenant of peace. In your death may we find life. Amen

### **Benediction**

God thank you for being with us in this wondering moment  
where we stand poised between life and death,  
filled to the brim with sorrow,  
filled with thoughts of what has been  
and what lies before us.  
Thank you for the gift of life.  
Thank you for our friend Jesus  
who was a gift to the world,  
a gift in each of our lives.  
Comfort us even as we are shaken by the horror of these last hours.  
Be our friend in this time of sorrow,  
and sustain us in the days to come.

Now Jesus, may God bless you and keep you,  
May the very face of God shine upon you, and be gracious to you,  
May God's presence embrace you and give you eternal peace.  
Amen.