

DOWNTOWN UNITED

Fredericton, N.B.

A Service of Wilmot and St. Paul's Together

April 15th , 2022

Good Friday

10:30 AM

Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. John 12:23-26

GATHERING TOGETHER

PRELUDE:

GREETING:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
The Love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you
And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *

CENTERING PRAYER: (In Unison) *

**Gracious God, you stand with us in grief and suffering,
on this Friday, that we call Good, be with us.**

**As we gather in the shadow of the cross, to hear again the story of death and see the stone roll
in front of the tomb; give us strength to watch what we can do to love when we feel
threatened.**

**This is not where we want to be, O God,
face to face with the symbols of death and instruments of torture,
yet, here we are again, looking to you for answers and hope, seeking to understand just what
is happening on this day, on that hill, so long ago.**

**Help us to see and understand what you are up to, that in these horrible events we can come
to understand how you transform them for Good. This we pray in Christ's name. Amen.**

HYMN: *Were You There*

VU 144

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?

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?

*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?*

*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?*

*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?*

HOW WE GOT TO THIS DAY:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Responsive) **

Would we have been among those who brought Jesus to the cross?

Like the disciples, we find a reason to avoid getting involved if our lifestyle is in danger.

Would we have been among those who brought Jesus to the cross?

Like the religious leaders, we are suspicious of those who force us to abandon the status quo and consider fresh directions.

Would we have been among those who brought Jesus to the cross?

Like Pilate, we are among those who know the faithful way, but are afraid of the consequences of following that way.

Would we have been among those who brought Jesus to the cross?

Like the soldiers, we really don't want to be involved in the issues; it isn't our place, our concern.

Would we have been among those who brought Jesus to the cross?

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

We find echoes from our own experience in the actions and the inaction of those who brought Jesus to the cross, those who had the power and those who were his friends. We see opportunities to take a different stance and express a different point of view.

God calls you to change

We are ready!

God's pardon and peace are yours.

Thanks be to God.

Amen

SUNG RESPONSE: "Don't be afraid"

MV 90 X2

*Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.
Don't be afraid.
My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.*

SCRIPTURE READING: John 19:16-37

REFLECTION:

HYMN: *O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile*

VU 136

*O come and mourn with me awhile;
O come now to the Saviour's side;
O come, together let us mourn:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.*

*Have we no tears to shed for him,
while soldiers scoff and foes deride?
Ah! Look how patiently he hangs:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.*

*Seven times he spake, seven words of love;
and all three hours his silence cried
for mercy on the souls of all:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.*

*O love of God! O sin-filled world!
In this dread act your strength is tried,
and victory remains with love:
Jesus, our Love, is crucified.*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father who Art in heaven
hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come thy will be done
on Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

SCRIPTURE READING: John 19:38-42

PRAYER OF RESPONSE: (In Unison)

Gifts of precious oils and an unused tomb—this is what your beloved ones offered when they could do no more for you. As we offer ourselves in this moment, bless us and remind us that we always have something worth bringing to you. Accept our love and gratitude, accept our time and treasure, allow them to be used for your redeeming work. This we pray. Amen.

HYMN: *There is a Green Hill Far Away*

VU 152

*There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.*

*We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.*

*There was no other good enough
to pay the price of sin;
his death has opened wide the gate
of heaven, to let us in.*

*O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.*

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION: ***

** Gathering L/E 2022 Gord Dunbar, pg 40*

*** Gathering L/E 2016 David Sparks, pg 37*

****Gatherings L/E 2016 Juanita Austin, pg 38*

Scripture Readers: Narrator – Barbara Cull-Wilby, Soldiers & Priests – Alanna Palmer, Pilate – Jane Banks, Jesus – Chris Grant
Greeters: Chris Grant & Tammy Coughlan



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Land Acknowledgement: We remember that St. Paul's sanctuary and our worship here is on the unceded territory of the Wolastoqey peoples. Long before this building was here, the land was considered sacred and tended to with respect and care. May our faith drive us to seek to be in right relationship with the first peoples of this land.