

**Order of Worship March 28, 2021**  
**Palm/Passion Sunday ~ Celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Prelude: Connie MacEwen

Words of Welcome and Introduction

Good morning beloved people. It is good for our bodies and souls to come away from the daily routine and just sit still for a little while. It is good to hear (read) words from the Ancient Sacred text and to sing the songs of the saints down through the ages reminding us of who we are and whose we are as the beloved of God. The words and songs will unite our spirits whether we are gathered here or at home. Welcome to church.

Today is Palm Sunday. In the story of the Christian faith, today marks the beginning of the last week of Jesus' earthly life. Born in a borrowed manger, eating his final meal in a borrowed guest room, laid to rest in a borrowed tomb, it should not surprise us Jesus comes riding into Jerusalem on a borrowed colt. As he nears the city many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. Then those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David, hosanna in the highest."

Like that little crowd long ago sang songs of praise and hope to Jesus, let us stand as able and offer our praise as we sing #214 All glory, laud and honour to thee Redeemer King...

Hymn: #214 All glory, laud and honour

1. All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
To thee before thy passion they sang their hymns of praise;  
to thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise.
  
2. All glory, laud, and honour to thee, Redeemer, King  
to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring!  
Thou didst accept their praises; accept the prayers we bring,  
who in all good delightest, thou good and gracious King. Amen.

Call to Worship and Prayer of Praise: Psalm 118: 1, 19-29

You will notice in these verses of Psalm 118, the writer intertwines making a declaration about God with speaking directly to God. The declarations about God – the call to worship, is in light print and I will read that. Speaking directly to God, or prayer, is in the bold or yellow... And you are invited to be the pray-ers and read the bold print.

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for the Lord is good;  
God's steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>19</sup> **Open to us the gates of righteousness,  
that we may enter through them**

**and give thanks to you, O God.**

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> **We thank you that you have answered us  
and have become our salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **This is your doing, LORD;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

<sup>25</sup> **Save us, we beseech you, O LORD!  
O LORD, we beseech you, give us success!**

<sup>26</sup> Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD.  
**We bless you from the house of the LORD.**

<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God;  
**you have given us light.**  
Bind the festal procession with branches,  
up to the horns of the altar.

<sup>28</sup> **You are our God, and we will give thanks to you;  
you are our God, we will extol you.**

**All: <sup>29</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for the Lord is good,  
God's steadfast love endures forever. Amen.**

Community looking back ~ looking ahead

Indeed, let us give thanks, for the Lord is good – here we are brought safely through all the ups and downs, joys and sorrows of this past week. And it is safe for us to gather again this Sunday!! I invite you to turn and look around and greet one another with a thumbs up or wave of the hand. This is a good day with Connie and Jean leading the way in music!

And for the first time since last year, remembering Jesus in the breaking of bread and drinking of juice will be a hands-on experience and not just gazing upon the elements. On the table at the top of the stairs, the communion plate held prepackaged little cups of juice and a bread wafer. Hopefully you picked one up on your way in... in preparation for partaking of the elements later, I invite you to take a closer look at the package – you will notice there is a clear tab on top of the purple one that when pulled back – please don't pull it back yet - opens the bread wafer... in the same way, pulling back the purple tab, opens the little cup of juice... the tissue is for afterwards to wrap the cup and tabs in...

Please know that all are invited to partake of communion – it is not about being old enough, or good enough, or member enough. This is about Jesus whose unconditional love, invites us to remember him in bread and juice. Let us give thanks, for God’s steadfast love endures forever.

I wonder in what other ways you have experience the goodness and mercy of God this past week...

I can see you are all breathing! This is very good!!

Put up your hand – if you had a soft warm bed to sleep in last night

If you had food to eat every day this past week

If you enjoyed the warmth of the sun and the feeling of spring in the air

If you received a phone call or made a phone call just to say hello this past week

If you were got your vaccine shot!!

If strength and peace was given in the hard stuff of life...

If the cashier at the grocery store or gas bar served you well

If you delighted in seeing grandchildren this week

If the daffodils and tulips are sprouting up at your house! Signs of new life sprouting up! It is good!!

Put up your hand if you experienced grace this week – more than what was deserved?! I did. My hair dresser called Friday morning wondering where I was – I totally forgot the appointment... How could I forget a hair cut? And she could have said, too bad, so sad. But she didn’t. “Can you be here at 2?” This is grace.

This coming Thursday night at 7:30 – Maundy Thursday, some of us are getting together on zoom to watch a movie titled, The Passion. It is a live performance of the last days of Jesus set in New Orleans. It comes highly recommended by Carrie. I will email the link for the zoom meeting out on Thursday morning and all are welcome to click on the link and join in.

Next Sunday is Easter and as in the past there is opportunity to bring an Easter lily to church in memory of loved ones – then take it home again afterwards and plant it in your gardens! Be sure to sign the list as the people remembered will be read aloud at the beginning of the service.

Also a reminder that we are in the process of electing new elders. Nomination slips are on the table at the top of the stairs, or you can email or call in the names of those you find charitable and interested in the things of church. Clerk Terry Fisk : 19-338-3784 or Rev. Kathy – 519-321-1942. Nominations will be received until April 11.

#### Lenten Learning

These past weeks we have been learning about the role of vaccines and antibiotics in putting an end to devastating pandemics/epidemics in the past. We are the beneficiaries of the work of scientific efforts over the past 150 years. Several vaccines have been proven effective. At least with the vaccine the chances of becoming severely ill and dying from covid 19 are much slimmer. There is still much to learn. Though we may not get sick from Covid 19 does that

mean we can still have the virus and spread it to others? How long will the immunity last? Will the vaccination cover mutations of the virus? This is just the scientific side of the pandemic. The director the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros... points to much bigger issues. In his January address he says, "The world is on the brink of a catastrophic moral failure – and the price of this failure will be paid with lives and livelihoods in the world's poorest countries." While vaccines are now being distributed in more than 70 countries across the world, in the majority of low- and middle-income countries, vaccination has not even started. While we patiently wait in line for our turn, many poor countries do not even have a line in which to wait. Vaccine equity is a huge issue that must be kept front and center in the vaccine roll out. If you would like to add your voice to this issue, there is a petition you can sign on the WHO website.

We – that is all the people around the world – are in this pandemic together. We are in this together but that does not mean we are all in the same boat. The Canadian boat has many advantages. Let us not forget the disadvantaged boats of others who are also our brothers and sisters.

#### Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Jonathan Dueck and his family from Calgary, traveled to Spain, where they toured the Basílica Santa Maria del Mar. Pausing to look up and gaze at the large crucifix at the front of the church, his 10-year old son, Lucas, had a question for his dad.

“Dad, do you think Jesus really had a 6 pack?”

Interesting what kids notice!!

I wonder what Lucas would have to say about resources freely given for the sake of others. This is no little thing – bless you all for your generosity.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we are glad to give what we can. Putting our little bits together we pray it will somehow enable your kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven through the mission and ministry of this church. In your name Lord Jesus we pray. Amen.

#### Responsive Reading and Prayer: PWS&D resource

One: We live in the midst of chaos and still give thanks to God who is good.

**All: God's love will always be there for us.**

One: We live with the promise that, as God has blessed us, God will continue to bless us.

**All: God's love will always be there for us.**

One: We join in the great “Hosannas” of all the saints, knowing and believing that God will act to save us.

**All: God's love will always be there for us.**

One: The One rejected as worthless has become our salvation.

**All: God's love will always be there for us.**

One: Let us pray.

**All: Loving God, we praise you that with humility Christ emptied himself for us. We marvel at**

**the faithfulness with which he continued on the way to Jerusalem. He did not allow anyone or anything to block his way. With that same determination we follow him through Holy Week and we seek your presence through the dark days of remembrance, reflection and repentance. We cry out with our “Hosannas,” believing and knowing that Jesus is our Lord. We praise and adore you, O God, in and through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Story of the Passion of Jesus according to the Gospel of Mark.

It is tempting to go from the “save we pray” hosannas of Palm Sunday to the praise ye the Lord, Hallelujahs of Easter morning and avoid Good Friday altogether. Who really wants to go to that hard place of denial and betrayal, injustice and pain and suffering, earnest praying, sleeping friends, weeping and death? Who wants to follow Jesus in this dark dark place? How is it possible any good can come out of it? Yet the cross of Jesus is central to our Christian faith, revealing just what kind of a God we need. It cannot be disregarded.

The image of God hanging between two criminals suggests that God is first standing in solidarity ‘with us’ in our bleakest, most desolate state, before God is for us a Saviour and redeemer. As we listen to the story of Good Friday again this day, I wonder how we will experience the presence of Christ with us in our pain and suffering because of recalling the story of his pain and suffering. Deep is love.

The account of Good Friday comes from the Gospel of Mark and it may sound a bit different as we hear it read from the paraphrase, The Message.

Every once in a while we will pause to sing a response to the text.

Dirk, will you come and take your place as a reader...

Mark 14:12-16

Reader 1: On the first day of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the day they prepare the Passover sacrifice, his disciples asked Jesus, “Where do you want us to go and make preparations so you can eat the Passover meal?”

He directed two of his disciples, “Go into the city. A man carrying water jug will meet you.

Follow him. Ask the owner of whichever house he enters, “The Teacher wants to know, ‘Where is my guest room where I can eat the Passover meal with my disciples?’” He will show you a spacious second-story room, swept and ready. Prepare for us there.”

The disciples left, came to the city, found everything just as he had told them, and prepared the Passover meal.

Let us stand and hum along with Jean as we sing this first song...

Song: #224 An upper room did our Lord prepare vs 1, 2

1. An upper room did our Lord prepare  
for those he loved until the end,

and his disciples still gather there  
to celebrate their risen Lord.

2. A lasting gift Jesus gave his own –  
to share his bread, his loving cup;  
whatever burdens may bow us down,  
he by his cross shall lift us up.

Action: The lighting of the Candle

Mark 14:17-21

Reader 2: After sunset he came with the Twelve. As they were at the supper table eating Jesus said, “I have something hard but important to say to you: One of you is going to hand me over to the conspirators, one who at this moment is eating with me.”

Stunned, they started asking, one after another, “It isn’t me, is it?”

He said, “It’s one of the Twelve, one who eats with me out of the same bowl.” In one sense, it turns out the Son of Man is entering into a way of treachery well-marked by the Scriptures – no surprises here. In another sense, the man who turns him in, turns traitor to the Son of Man – better never to have been born than do this.

Song: #206 Jesus, remember me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Mark 14:22-25

Reader 1: In the course of the meal, having taken and blessed the bread, he broke it and gave it to them. Then he said,  
Take, this is my body.

Reader 2: Taking the chalice, he gave it to them, thanking God, and they all drank from it. He said, This is my blood, God’s new covenant. Poured out for many people. “I’ll not be drinking wine again until the new day when I drink it in the kingdom of God.”

Song: #524 We come as guests invited (tune 479)

1. WE come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,  
his friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;  
the bread of life is broken, the wine is freely poured  
for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation

Just as Jesus invited

his faithful and failing followers

that evening long ago  
to take the broken bread,  
a symbol of his body  
into their hands,  
and to drink from the cup,  
symbolizing his blood, sealing a new covenant,  
so, we too,  
are invited to do the same this day.  
Come all you faithful and failing followers  
Here at this table  
Jesus is the host and he bids us to be present.

#### Prayer

Let us pray.  
Ah Lord Jesus, for us you were born,  
for us you healed, preached, taught,  
and showed the way of the kingdom of heaven;  
for us you were crucified,  
and for us you rose again.

Lord Jesus, present with us now  
for all you have done  
and all you have promised,  
what have we to offer?

Our hands are empty,  
our hearts sometimes full of wrong things.  
We are not fit to gather up the crumbs from under your table.

But with you there is mercy  
and the power to change us.

So as we do in this place,  
what you did in that upstairs room.  
Come Breath of God, breathe on us,  
that these symbols of your body may become for us  
a source of healing, forgiveness, wholeness;

that we may become, for you,  
your body, loving and caring in the world  
until your kingdom comes in all its fullness.  
Amen.

### Sharing the Bread and Juice

I invite you to lift the top clear tab and eat the wafer remembering Jesus broken that we might know wholeness.

And let us take the cup – and drink from it, remember Jesus’ blood seals a new covenant with God in which our sins are remembered no more.

Will you please stand and sign along with me...

Christ has died Hallelujah. Christ is risen. Hallelujah. Christ will come again. Hallelujah.

Song: # 524 We come as guests invited vs 2 (tune 479)

We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need,  
and in our hearts believing on him by faith we feed;  
with wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end,  
we find in Jesus living our ever-present friend.

Mark 14:26-31

Reader 1: They sang a hymn and then went directly to Mount Olives.

Jesus told them, “You are all going to feel that your world is falling apart and that it’s my fault. There’s a Scripture that says,

I will strike the shepherd;

The sheep will go helter-skelter.

But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you, leading the way to Galilee.”

Peter blurted out, “Even if everyone else is ashamed of you when things fall to pieces, I won’t be.” Jesus said, “Don’t be so sure. Today, this very night in fact, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

Peter blustered in protest, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.”

All the others said the same thing.

Song: #206 Jesus, remember me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Mark 14:32-42

Reader 2: They came to an area called Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John with him. He plunged into a sinkhole of dreadful agony. He told them, “I feel bad enough right now to die. Stay here and keep vigil with me.”

Going a little ahead, he fell to the ground and prayed for a way out:

“Papa, Father, you can – can’t you? – get me out of this.

Take this cup away from me. But please, not what I want – what do *you* want?”

He came back and found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, “Simon, you went to sleep on me? Can’t you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert, be in prayer, so you don’t enter the



danger zone without even knowing it. Don't be naïve. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

He then went back and prayed the same prayer. Returning, he again found them sound asleep. They simply couldn't keep their eyes open, and they didn't have a plausible excuse.

He came back a third time and said, "Are you going to sleep all night? No – you've slept long enough. Time's up. The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let's get going. My betrayer has arrived."

Song: #230 Go to dark Gethsemane vs 1

Go to dark Gethsemane, you that feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.  
From his grief turn not away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Mark 14:43-52

Reader 1: No sooner were the words out of his mouth when Judas, the one out of the Twelve, showed up, and with him a gang of ruffians, sent by the high priests, religion scholars, and leaders, brandishing swords and clubs. The betrayer had worked out a signal with them: "The one I kiss, that's the one – seize him. Make sure he doesn't get away." He went straight to Jesus and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. The others then grabbed him and roughed him up. One of the men standing there unsheathed his sword, swung, and came down on the Chief Priest's servant, lopping off the man's ear.

Reader 2: Jesus said to them, "What is this, coming after me with swords and clubs as if I were a dangerous criminal? Day after day I've been sitting in the Temple teaching, and you never so much as lifted a hand against me. What you in fact have done is confirm the prophetic writings."

All the disciples cut and ran.

Reader 1: A young man was following along. All he had on was a bed sheet. Some of the men grabbed him but he got away, running off naked, leaving them holding the sheet.

Song: #206 Jesus, remember me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Mark 14:53-65

Reader 2: They led Jesus to the Chief Priest, where the high priests, religious leaders, and scholars had gathered together. Peter followed at a safe distance until they got to the Chief Priest's courtyard, where he mingled with the servants and warmed himself at the fire.

Reader 1: The high priests conspiring with the Jewish Council looked high and low for evidence against Jesus by which they could sentence him to death. They found nothing. Plenty of people were willing to bring in false charges, but nothing added up, and they ended up canceling each other out. Then a few of them stood up and lied: "We heard him say, "I am

going to tear down this Temple, built by hard labour, and in three days build another without lifting a hand.” But even they couldn’t agree exactly.

Reader 2: In the middle of this, the Chief Priest stood up and asked Jesus, “What do you have to say to the accusation?” Jesus was silent. He said nothing.

Reader 1: The Chief Priest tried again, this time asking, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed?”

Jesus said, “Yes, I am and you’ll see it yourself.: The Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Mighty One, arriving on the clouds of heaven.”

Reader 2: The Chief Priest lost his temper. Ripping his clothes, he yelled, “Did you hear that? After that do we need witnesses? You heard the blasphemy. Are you going to stand for it?”

They condemned him, one and all. The sentence: death.

Some of them started spitting at him. They blindfolded his eyes, then hit him, saying, “Who hit you? Prophecy!” The guards, punching and slapping, took him away.

Song 230 Go to dark Gethsemane vs 2

Follow to the judgment hall; see his beaten, bound, arraigned;  
patiently he bears it all, all our pain his soul sustained.

Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.

Mark 14:66-72

Reader 2: While all this was going on, Peter was down in the courtyard. One of the Chief Priest’s servant girls came in and, seeing Peter warming himself there, looked hard at him and said, “You were with the Nazarene, Jesus.”

He denied it: “I don’t know what you’re talking about.” He went out on the porch. A rooster crowed.

The girl spotted him and began telling the people standing around, “He’s one of them.” He denied it again.

After a little while, the bystanders brought it up again. “You’ve got to be one of them. You’ve got ‘Galilean’ written all over you.”

Now Peter got really nervous and swore, “I never laid eyes on this man you’re talking about.” Just then the rooster crowed a second time. Peter remembered how Jesus had said, “Before a rooster crows twice, you’ll deny me three times.” He collapsed in tears.

Song: #206 Jesus, remember me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.

Mark 15:1-15

Reader 1: At dawn's first light, the high priests, with the religious leaders and scholars, arranged a conference with the entire Jewish Council. After tying Jesus securely, they took him out and presented him to Pilate.

Pilate asked him, "Are you the 'King of the Jews'?"

He answered, "If you say so." The high priests let loose a barrage of accusations.

Pilate asked again, "Aren't you going to answer anything? That's quite a list of accusations." Still, he said nothing. Pilate was impressed, really impressed.

Reader 2: It was a custom at the Feast to release a prisoner, anyone the people asked for. There was one prisoner called Barabbas, locked up with the insurrectionists who had committed murder during the uprising against Rome. As the crowd came up and began to present its petition for him to release a prisoner, Pilate anticipated them "Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?" Pilate knew by this time that it was through sheer spite that the high priests had turned Jesus over to him.

Reader 1: But the high priests by then had worked up the crowd to ask for the release of Barabbas. Pilate came back, "So what do I do with this man you call King of the Jews?"

They yelled, "Nail him to a cross!"

Pilate objected, "But for what crime?"

But they yelled all the louder, "Nail him to a cross!"

Reader 2: Pilate gave the crowd what it wanted, set Barabbas free and turned Jesus over for whipping and crucifixion.

Let us stand to sing...

Song: #223 To mock your reign, O dearest Lord (tune 671)

1. To mock your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns,  
set you with taunts along that road from which no one returns.  
They did not know, as we do now, that glorious is your crown;  
that thorns would flower upon your brow, your sorrows heal our own.
2. To mock your reign, O gracious Lord, they snatched a purple cloak,  
your passion turned, for all they cared, into a soldier's joke.  
They did not know as we do now, that though we merit blame  
you will your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame.
3. A sceptered reed, O patient Lord, they thrust into your hand,  
and acted out their grim charade to its appointed end.  
They did not know, as we do now, though empires rise and fall,  
your kingdom shall not cease to grow till love embraces all.

Mark 15:16-21

Reader 1: The soldiers took Jesus into the palace (called Praetorium) and called together the entire brigade. They dressed him up in purple and put a crown plaited from a thorn bush on his head. Then they began their mockery: “Bravo, King of the Jews!” They banged on his head with a club, spit on him, and knelt down in mock worship. After they had had their fun, they took off the purple cape and put his own clothes back on him. Then they marched out to nail him to the cross.

Reader 2: There was a man walking by, coming from work, Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. They made him carry Jesus’ cross.

Action: The entry of the Cross and Crown of thorns.

Mark 15:22-37

Reader 1: The soldiers brought Jesus to Golgotha, meaning, “Skull Hill.” They offered him a mild painkiller (wine mixed with myrrh), but he wouldn’t take it. And they nailed him to the cross. They divided up his clothes and threw dice to see who would get them.

Reader 2: They nailed him up at nine o’clock in the morning. The charge against him – THE KING OF THE JEWS – was printed on a poster. Along with him, they crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left. People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament: “You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days – so show us your stuff! Save yourself! If you’re really God’s Son, come down from that cross!”

Reader 1: The high priests, along with the religion scholars, were right there mixing it up with the rest of them, having a great time poking fun at him; “He saved others – but he can’t save himself! Messiah, is he? King of Israel? Then let him climb down from that cross. We’ll all become believers then!” Even the men crucified alongside him joined in the mockery.

Reader 2: At noon the sky became extremely dark. The darkness lasted three hours. At three o’clock, Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

Reader 1: Some of the bystanders who heard him said, “Listen, he’s calling for Elijah.” Someone ran off, soaked a sponge in sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

Reader 2: But Jesus, with a loud cry, gave his last breath.

Action: The Candle is snuffed out

Mark 15:38-41

Reader 1: At that moment the Temple curtain ripped right down the middle.

Reader 2: When the Roman captain standing guard in front of him saw that he had quit breathing, he said, “This has to be the Son of God!”

Reader 1: There were women watching from a distance, among them Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of the younger James and Joses, and Salome. When Jesus was in Galilee, these women followed and served him, and had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Song: #233 Were you there vs 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?

Mark 15:42-47

Reader 2: Late in the afternoon, since it was the Day of Preparation (that is, Sabbath eve), Joseph of Arimathea, a highly respected member of the Jewish Council, came. He was one who lived expectantly, on the lookout for the kingdom of God. Working up his courage, he went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate questioned whether he could be dead that soon and called for the captain to verify that he was really dead. Assured by the captain, he gave Joseph the corpse.

Reader 1: Having already purchased a linen shroud, Joseph took him down, wrapped him in the shroud, placed him in a tomb that had been cut into the rock, and rolled a large stone across the opening.

Reader 2: Mary Magdalene and Mary, mother of Joses, watched the burial.

Song: #233 Were you there vs 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?

Silent Reflection and Pondering

Prayers of the People concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray.

Upon all who have been forsaken, betrayed by a kiss,  
 Lord, come in your mercy.

Upon all misunderstood by loved ones, deserted by friends,  
 Lord, come in your mercy,

Upon all who are in physical pain, suffering mental anguish  
 Lord, come in your mercy,

Upon all who are waiting and watching and weeping this day  
 Lord, come in your mercy.

We come with broken hope and broken promises  
 Broken relationship and broken hearts  
 For you alone can make us whole.  
 We come with all our doubts and confusion,  
 grief and sorrow,  
 the yearnings that are within us and the fears  
 For you alone are the source of hope and peace.  
 We come in all our falseness and pretense  
 The ugliness and divisions of which we are a part  
 For with you there is grace and mercy and forgiveness.  
 And you have not taken your Spirit from us.

We thirst for you. Create in us clean hearts. Help us to pray sincerely as we say together,  
**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 sins as we  
 forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For  
 thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever Amen.**

Let stand to sing...

Song # 238 Beneath the cross of Jesus

1. 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.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eyes at times can see  
 the very dying form of one who suffered there for me,  
 and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:  
 the wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, thy 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.

Benediction

Shalom my friends, shalom my friends,  
 Shalom, shalom

God's peace go with you  
 God's peace go with you  
 Shalom, shalom.

#### Announcements

Next Sunday all are invited to bring an Easter lily in memory of a loved one to help decorate the sanctuary Easter Sunday. Please sign the list that will be on the table at the top of the stairs so that the memorial names may be included in the service.

#### Election of Elders:

The time has come for election of new elders. With the retirement of Jim and John the Session is looking for 5 new elders to join in the work of the Session. You are invited to nominate people you believe would be good elders - respected by and committed to the congregation and the life of Knox-Calvin. Nomination slips are on the table at the top of the stairs (attached at the end of this service). Two people are required for the nomination to stand. The session also agreed due to the pandemic restrictions and all, nominations can be phoned in to the Clerk, Terry Fisk at 519-338-3784 or to your elder. They can also be emailed to me – [kcpc-revkathy@wightman.ca](mailto:kcpc-revkathy@wightman.ca) Even if you don't have a second person to agree on the nomination you would like to make, perhaps someone else will also nominate the same person meeting the requirement of two people. Please find a list of all members included to help jog the memory of who is eligible for nomination.

Nominations must be received by April 11 in order for preparing the ballot of nominees for the annual Congregational meeting scheduled for the last Sunday in April, April 25.

Let us be thoughtful and prayerful in this time of transition of leadership.

#### Lectionary Readings for Maunday Thursday, April 1:

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10), 11–14; Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19  
 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; John 13:1–17, 31b–35

#### Lectionary Readings for Good Friday, April 2

Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; Psalm 22  
 Hebrews 10:16–25 *OR* Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9; Mark 15:21–41 *OR* John 18:1 – 19:42

#### Lectionary Readings for Easter Sunday, April 4

Isaiah 25:6–9 *OR* Acts 10:34–43; Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24  
 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 *OR* Acts 10:34–43; John 20:1–18 *OR* Mark 16:1–8

#### **Moment for Mission : Providing Clean Water and Sanitation**

Today, there are 4.2 billion people in the world who do not have access to sanitation services and 2.2 billion people who do not have safe, clean water to drink. Consequently, many people are at risk for waterborne diseases, such as cholera and diarrhea. The COVID-19 pandemic has made us even more aware of the importance of clean water, as handwashing is a crucial way to help

curb the spread of disease. Presbyterian World Service & Development works with local partners to bring clean water and sanitation services to vulnerable communities. Clean water allows people to harvest crops, care for their families, expand their livelihoods and lead healthy, productive lives.



