

**Knox Presbyterian Church, Harrington  
Friday April 15, 2022  
Good Friday Service**

Welcome

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

In Him was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. He came to his own people but his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God. John 1: 4-5, 11-12

**Call to Worship:**

Rev. Carol: We come before God, remembering Jesus' darkest hours. Jesus asked his friends to watch with him a little while.

**People: We want to wait, but we are tired and weary. Help us Lord.**

Rev. Carol: Lord, grant us courage to face the darkness

**People: Let us not betray or deny you.**

**Opening Prayer**

Almighty God:

We come to this day in Holy Week, to ponder the gift you gave us in allowing Your only Son to die so that we might live. We wonder what this day must have been like for the disciples and others who had followed Jesus for three years of ministry. How would Mary have felt watching her firstborn son crucified as a common criminal? We wonder what Peter must have felt knowing just hours before he had denied even knowing who Jesus was. We wonder what John – the beloved disciple felt – realizing that his friend and mentor now faced certain death. As we hear the familiar words of Scripture – retelling all that took place on this day in which Jesus died - remind us of the Amazing Grace that could only take place because of the shed blood of Christ on the cross. Speak your words of mercy and love, healing and wholeness deep into our souls as we sing and listen and participate in worship. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**Marilyn: Reading from Isaiah 52 and 53**

See, My Servant shall prosper: he shall be highly exalted. Yet many shall be amazed when they see him – yes, even far-off foreign nations and their kings; they shall stand dumbfounded, speechless in His presence. For they shall see and understand what they have not been told before. They shall see My Servant beaten, bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know it was a person standing there. So shall He cleanse many nations.

**Sung Response: Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom (x2)**

But oh, how few believe it! Who will listen? To whom will God reveal His saving power? In God's eyes, He was like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile ground. But in our eyes there was no attractiveness at all, nothing to make us want Him. We despised Him and rejected Him – a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitter grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way when He went by. He was despised and we didn't care.

**Sung Response: Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom (x2)**

Yet, it was *our* grief He bore, *our* sorrows that weighed Him down. And we thought His troubles were a punishment from God, for His *own* sins! But He was wounded and bruised for *our* sins. He was chastised that we might have peace; He was lashed – and we were healed! *We* are the ones who strayed away like sheep! *We*, who left God's paths to follow our own. Yet God laid on *Him* the guilt and sins of every one of us!

**Sung Response: Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom (x2)**

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet he never said a word. He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He stood silent before the ones condemning Him. From prison and trial they led Him away to His death, But who among the people of that day realized it was their sins he was dying for – that He was suffering their punishment? He was buried like a criminal in a rich man's grave; but He had done no wrong, and had not spoken an evil word.

**Sung Response: Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom (x2)**

Yet it was the Lord's good plan to bruise Him and fill Him with grief. But when His soul has been made an offering for sin, then He shall have a multitude of children, many heirs. He shall live again and God's program shall prosper in His hands. And when He sees all that is accomplished by the anguish of His soul, He shall be satisfied; and because of what He had experienced, My righteous Servant shall make many to be counted righteous before God, for He shall bear all their sins. Therefore I will give Him the honors of one who is mighty and great, because He has poured out His soul unto death. He was counted as a sinner, and He bore the sins of many, and He pleads with God for sinners.

**Hymn # 231 When I survey the wondrous cross**

1. When I survey the wond'rous Cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest Gain I count but Loss,  
And pour Contempt on all my Pride.

2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the Death of Christ my God:  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his Blood.

3. See from his Head, his Hands, his Feet,  
Sorrow and Love flow mingled down!  
Did ever such Love and Sorrow meet?  
Or Thorns compose so rich a Crown?

### Sharon: Reading from Luke 22: 63 – 71

<sup>63</sup> Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; <sup>64</sup> they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” <sup>65</sup> They kept heaping many other insults on him.

<sup>66</sup> When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. <sup>67</sup> They said, “If you are the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> tell us.” He replied, “If I tell you, you will not believe; <sup>68</sup> and if I question you, you will not answer. <sup>69</sup> But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.” <sup>70</sup> All of them asked, “Are you, then, the Son of God?” He said to them, “You say that I am.” <sup>71</sup> Then they said, “What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!”

### Hymn # 239 O sacred head sore wounded

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown;  
how art thou pale with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn;  
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered, was all for sinners' gain;  
Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place;  
Look on me with Thy favor, oh grant to me Thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest friend,  
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?  
O make me Thine forever, and should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee.

### Linda: Reading from Luke 23: 1 – 25

**23** Then the entire Council took Jesus over to Pilate, the governor.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>2</sup> They began at once accusing him: “This fellow has been leading our people to ruin by telling them not to pay their taxes to the Roman government and by claiming he is our Messiah—a King.”

<sup>3</sup> So Pilate asked him, “Are you their Messiah—their King?”<sup>[b]</sup>

“Yes,” Jesus replied, “it is as you say.”

<sup>4</sup> Then Pilate turned to the chief priests and to the mob and said, “So? That isn’t a crime!”

<sup>5</sup> Then they became desperate. “But he is causing riots against the government everywhere he goes, all over Judea, from Galilee to Jerusalem!”

<sup>6</sup> “Is he then a Galilean?” Pilate asked.

<sup>7</sup> When they told him yes, Pilate said to take him to King Herod, for Galilee was under Herod’s jurisdiction; and Herod happened to be in Jerusalem at the time. <sup>8</sup> Herod was delighted at the opportunity to see Jesus, for he had heard a lot about him and had been hoping to see him perform a miracle.

<sup>9</sup> He asked Jesus question after question, but there was no reply. <sup>10</sup> Meanwhile, the chief priests and the other religious leaders stood there shouting their accusations.

<sup>11</sup> Now Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus; and putting a kingly robe on him, they sent him back to Pilate. <sup>12</sup> That day Herod and Pilate—enemies before—became fast friends.

<sup>13</sup> Then Pilate called together the chief priests and other Jewish leaders, along with the people, <sup>14</sup> and announced his verdict:

“You brought this man to me, accusing him of leading a revolt against the Roman government.<sup>[c]</sup> I have examined him thoroughly on this point and find him innocent. <sup>15</sup> Herod came to the same conclusion and sent him back to us—nothing this man has done calls for the death penalty. <sup>16</sup> I will therefore have him scourged with leaded thongs and release him.”

<sup>17-18</sup> <sup>[d]</sup> But now a mighty roar rose from the crowd as with one voice they shouted. “Kill him, and release Barabbas to us!” <sup>19</sup> (Barabbas was in prison for starting an insurrection in Jerusalem against the government, and for murder.) <sup>20</sup> Pilate argued with them, for he wanted to release Jesus. <sup>21</sup> But they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

<sup>22</sup> Once more, for the third time, he demanded, “Why? What crime has he committed? I have found no reason to sentence him to death. I will therefore scourge him and let him go.” <sup>23</sup> But they shouted louder and louder for Jesus’ death, and their voices prevailed.

<sup>24</sup> So Pilate sentenced Jesus to die as they demanded. <sup>25</sup> And he released Barabbas, the man in prison for insurrection and murder, at their request. But he delivered Jesus over to them to do with as they would.

### Hymn: # 246 (HFG) Man of Sorrows “What a Name!” Vs 1 – 3

Man of sorrows what a name  
for the Son of God, who came  
ruined sinners to reclaim:  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
in my place condemned he stood,  
sealed my pardon with his blood:  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

Guilty, helpless, lost were we;  
blameless Lamb of God was he,  
sacrificed to set us free:  
Hallelujah, what a Savior!

### Pat: Reading from Luke 23: 26 – 43

<sup>26</sup> As the crowd led Jesus away to his death, Simon of Cyrene, who was just coming into Jerusalem from the country, was forced to follow, carrying Jesus' cross. <sup>27</sup> Great crowds trailed along behind, and many grief-stricken women.

<sup>28</sup> But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don't weep for me, but for yourselves and for your children. <sup>29</sup> For the days are coming when the women who have no children will be counted fortunate indeed. <sup>30</sup> Mankind will beg the mountains to fall on them and crush them, and the hills to bury them. <sup>31</sup> For if such things as this are done to me, the Living Tree, what will they do to you?”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>32-33</sup> Two others, criminals, were led out to be executed with him at a place called “The Skull.” There all three were crucified—Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side.

<sup>34</sup> “Father, forgive these people,” Jesus said, “for they don't know what they are doing.”

And the soldiers gambled for his clothing, throwing dice for each piece. <sup>35</sup> The crowd watched. And the Jewish leaders laughed and scoffed. “He was so good at helping others,” they said, “let's see him save himself if he is really God's Chosen One, the Messiah.”

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers mocked him, too, by offering him a drink—of sour wine. <sup>37</sup> And they called to him, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself !”

<sup>38</sup> A signboard was nailed to the cross above him with these words: “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals hanging beside him scoffed, “So you're the Messiah, are you? Prove it by saving yourself—and us, too, while you're at it!”

<sup>40-41</sup> But the other criminal protested. "Don't you even fear God when you are dying? We deserve to die for our evil deeds, but this man hasn't done one thing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

<sup>43</sup> And Jesus replied, "Today you will be with me in Paradise. This is a solemn promise."

### **Kathryn: Meditation Reading**

We aren't told the names of the criminals who were crucified with Jesus. Perhaps that makes it easier for us to put ourselves in their place. The request one of the criminals made of Jesus is one we all could make. It's one we all should make.

The criminal calls Jesus by name. In this way he makes an interesting confession. The name Jesus means "Saviour". Salvation can be found and no one else. What the criminal is really saying is "Saviour, save me!" To be able to ask that, you must know who Jesus is and know that he is able to grant your request.

Notice that Jesus responds as soon as the request is given. There's no probation time, no "what if's" or "maybe's". Jesus tells the man, "Today.... in paradise"!

But get a good look at the criminal. There he is, stretched out on a cross. He can't give anything: he can't kneel and pray, can't be baptized; he can't go to church. He can do nothing but open his heart to Jesus in repentance. And to this man's request Jesus responds by giving salvation - full and free. Jesus, lifted on a cross, draws all people to himself including criminals with nothing to offer but a broken heart.

### **Responsive Reading: If We Had Been There**

Rev. Carol: If we had been Jews, would we have spoken out for Him when the Sanhedrin accused Him of blasphemy?

If we had been Gentiles, would we have defended Him when the Romans condemned Him to death?

If we had been disciples, would we have stayed with him when the crowd became a crucifying mob?

Or would we have been like Peter - who followed Him and loved Him and denied Him three times before the dawn?

### ***Singers: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

Rev. Carol: And the Christ was crucified there, once said "As you have done it to the least of these My Sisters and Brothers, you have done it unto me."

As nations rise in war

As governments oppress the poor

As passive people turn and look aside

In silence

We crucify

Again --

We crucify.

**People: As indifference forms the pattern of our lives.  
 As hungry children cry for food  
 As families are torn apart by war  
 As widows mourn alone in empty rooms  
 As those seeking refuge in safer lands wait – wait – wait  
 In apathy –  
 We crucify,  
 Again –  
 We crucify.**

***Singers: Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?***

Rev. Carol: I think of the nails that crucified my Lord.  
 They were made of iron; but more –  
 They were made of a hatred, prejudice and greed.  
 And I wonder –  
 What part of me is found in the shadow of that mob that stretches down  
 through history? What part of me creates nails in other forms that wound my  
 sister and my brother and my Lord?

**People: You know how many times I have betrayed you Lord.  
 You know the times I have chosen evil over good.  
 Guilt lies upon me like an iron cloak.  
 My soul is heavy - my burden weighs me down.**

**Hymn # 238 Beneath the cross of Jesus**

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  
 mine eye 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.

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.

## Bob: Reading from Luke 23: 44 – 55

<sup>44</sup> By now it was noon, and darkness fell across the whole land<sup>[a]</sup> for three hours, until three o'clock. <sup>45</sup> The light from the sun was gone—and suddenly<sup>[b]</sup> the thick veil hanging in the Temple split apart.

<sup>46</sup> Then Jesus shouted, “Father, I commit my spirit to you,” and with those words he died.<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>47</sup> When the captain of the Roman military unit handling the executions saw what had happened, he was stricken with awe before God and said, “Surely this man was innocent.”<sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>48</sup> And when the crowd that came to see the crucifixion saw that Jesus was dead, they went home in deep sorrow. <sup>49</sup> Meanwhile, Jesus’ friends, including the women who had followed him down from Galilee, stood in the distance watching.

<sup>50-52</sup> Then a man named Joseph, a member of the Jewish Supreme Court, from the city of Arimathea in Judea, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He was a godly man who had been expecting the Messiah’s coming and had not agreed with the decision and actions of the other Jewish leaders. <sup>53</sup> So he took down Jesus’ body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth and laid it in a new, unused tomb hewn into the rock at the side of a hill.<sup>[e]</sup> <sup>54</sup> This was done late on Friday afternoon, the day of preparation for the Sabbath.

<sup>55</sup> As the body was taken away, the women from Galilee followed and saw it carried into the tomb.

### ***Singers: Were you there when the sun refused to shine?***

Rev. Carol: In the act of death He absorbs our sins.  
 In love, He forgives our failures.  
 In the act of resurrection He gives the promise of acceptance, the assurance forgiveness, the affirmation of eternal life.  
 “Your sins are forgiven you,” He said, “Go and sin no more.”

**People: Through Your love, I am made whole,  
 Through Your death I have found new life.  
 You are my shield, my redeemer and my hope.  
 My sins are forgiven - Hallelujah!**

### **Hymn # 329 (Celebration) There is Power in the Blood**

Would you be free from your burden of sin?  
 There's power in the blood, power in the blood.  
 Would you o'er evil a victory win?  
 There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.



**Refrain:**

**There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder working pow'r  
In the blood of the Lamb.**

**There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder working pow'r  
In the precious blood of the Lamb.**

Would you be free from your passion and pride?  
There's power in the blood, power in the blood.  
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide.  
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood **Refrain**

Would you be whiter, much whiter than snow?  
There's power in the blood. power in the blood.  
Sin's stains are lost in it's life giving flow.  
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood. **Refrain**

Would you do service for Jesus your king?  
There's power in the blood, power in the blood.  
Would you live daily His praises to sing?  
There's wonderful power in the blood. **Refrain**

**Closing Prayer:**

Lord of New Life:

We acknowledge, O Lord that there is so little in us that is lovable. So often we are not lovely in our thoughts, in our words, or in our deeds. And yet You love us still, with a love that never stops, a love that does not grow weary, but is constant year after year - age after age.

O God, may our hearts be opened to that love today. With bright skies above us, the fields and woods and gardens bursting with new life and beauty, how can we fail to respond? With the clear notes of birds songs challenging us to praise, with every lowly shrub and blossoming flower catching new life and beauty, our heart indeed should proclaim You as Lord of all things great and small. May Your healing love invade our innermost hearts healing sorrow, pain, frustration, defeat and despair.

May this day create within us of love for You - a love which seeks to know Your will and do it. Grant that this day of hallowed remembrance may be the beginning of a new way of life for each of us, a new kind of living that shall be the best answer to the confusion and to the challenge of evil in our day. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen

**Congregational Singing:**

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

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see.

**Rev. Carol:**

***The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments.***

Silence.....

***“Depart in peace”.....*** (Blow out Christ Candle)

Depart in Silence