

## April 7, 2023 - Good Friday – joint service to be held at Trinity

### **Cathy: Welcome & Call to Worship**

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;

**Yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, afflicted.**

### **Hymn: # 238 Beneath the cross of Jesus** (E. C. Clephane 1839-1869)

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 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 own worthlessness.

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.

### **Cathy: Prayer of approach**

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross. We gather today, to behold the cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world. O crucified Jesus, Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, eternal Word of God, we worship you. O crucified Jesus, holy temple of God, dwelling place of the Most High, gate of heaven, burning flame of love, we worship you. O crucified Jesus, sanctuary of justice and love, full of kindness, source of all faithfulness, We worship you our Lord Jesus Christ, who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

### **Joan: Call to confession**

We are confronted again on this Good Friday, with the depth of human wickedness and the greater depth of God's Divine compassion. As Christ's arms are stretched out and his

body lifted up, let us confess our part in the sin of the world and repent of it, knowing the reality of God's transforming forgiveness. Let us pray:

### **Prayer of confession**

Holy God, it is difficult for us to look upon your cross and to consider your suffering. It frightens us. It overwhelms us. It brings us to our knees when we would prefer to turn away.

Loving God, hear our prayers of confession. Forgive us as individuals. Forgive us as congregations. Forgive our reliance on our own selves. Forgive our dependence on violence, forgive our times of bitterness, resentment. Forgive our blindness to your presence.

We are humbled by the mystery of undeserved suffering, and the deeper mystery of unmerited love. Forgive us for not knowing what we have done. Open our eyes to see what you are doing now, as, through wood and nails, you disempower our depravity and transform us by your grace.

Almighty God: you alone are good and holy. Purify our lives and make us brave disciples. We do not ask you to keep us safe, but to keep us loyal and faithful, so we may serve Jesus Christ, who, tempted in every way as we are, was faithful to you.

Hear us now as we pray together in the words that Jesus taught us... ***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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen***

### **Assurance of pardon**

**Hear the Good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power – for us. Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation! The old life is gone, a new life has begun! Friends in Christ, believe the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven people. Thanks be to God!**

### **Mitch: Prayer for illumination**

Come among us Jesus, You who walked the long road to Jerusalem. Come among us Jesus, You who willingly died a criminal's death, and knew the betrayal of your closest companions. Because of you, Jesus, we dare to step into the darkness of this day. As we contemplate your passion, your wounds, your sorrow and pain, may our souls be grasped by what our minds alone cannot contain, that this was all for us. **Amen**

## **Mitch:**      **Isaiah, Chapter 52**

Awake, awake, put on your strength, O Zion! Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city; for the uncircumcised and the unclean shall enter you no more. 2 Shake yourself from the dust, rise up, O captive Jerusalem; loose the bonds from your neck, O captive daughter Zion! 3 For thus says the Lord: You were sold for nothing, and you shall be redeemed without money. 4 For thus says the Lord God: Long ago, my people went down into Egypt to reside there as aliens; the Assyrian, too, has oppressed them without cause. 5 Now therefore what am I doing here, says the Lord, seeing that my people are taken away without cause? Their rulers howl, says the Lord, and continually, all day long, my name is despised. 6 Therefore my people shall know my name; therefore in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I.

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." 8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. 9 Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. 11 Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the Lord. 12 For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight; for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

13 See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. 14 Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— 15 so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

## **Dorothy R:**      **Isaiah, Chapter 53**

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

4 Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was wounded for our transgressions,

crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. 6All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 8By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. 9They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

10Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. 11Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. 12Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Betsy: Psalm 22** (vv 1-8, 16-19, 22-31)

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.**

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

**To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**

But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

**Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver-- let him rescue the one in whom he delights!**

For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shrivelled;

**I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;**

They divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

**But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!**

I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

**You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

**All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.**

For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

**To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.**

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

**Laura:** *Please stand for the first verse of O sacred head sore wounded and remain seated for the remaining verses.*

*O Sacred Head Sore Wounded – (words: Bernard of Clairveaux, 1091-1153, music: J.S.Bach) – (verse 1)*

***O sacred head sore 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.***

**Let us hear the story of Christ s passion as told in the gospel of John , chapter 18: 1-18**

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, *For whom are you looking?*

They answered, *Jesus of Nazareth.*

Jesus replied, *I am he.*

Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, *I am he* they stepped back and fell to the ground.

Again he asked them, *For whom are you looking?*

And they said, *Jesus of Nazareth.*

Jesus answered, *I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.* This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

Jesus said to Peter, *Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?*

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, *You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?*

He said, *I am not.*

Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

*(Verse 2)*

***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 Saviour; tis I deserve thy place;  
Look on my with thy favour, oh grant to me thy grace.***

**Mary: continuing in the gospel of John, chapter 18: 19-40**

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, *I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.*

When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, *Is that how you answer the high priest?*

Jesus answered, *If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?* Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, *You are not also one of his disciples, are you?*

He denied it and said, *I am not.*

One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, *Did I not see you in the garden with him?*

Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, *What accusation do you bring against this man?*

They answered, *If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.*

Pilate said to them, *Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.*

The Jews replied, *We are not permitted to put anyone to death.* (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, *Are you the King of the Jews?*

Jesus answered, *Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?*

Pilate replied, *I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?*

Jesus answered, *My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.*

Pilate asked him, *So you are a king?*

Jesus answered, *You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.*

Pilate asked him, *What is truth?* After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, *I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?*

They shouted in reply, *Not this man, but Barabbas!* Now Barabbas was a bandit.

*(Verse 3)*

***What language shall I borrow to thank thee dearest friend,  
For this, thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end ?  
Oh, make me thine forever, and should I fainting be,  
Oh let me never, never, outlive my love for thee.***

**Joan:        John 19: 1-22**

19Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. 2And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. 3They kept coming up to him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! and striking him on the face. 4Pilate went out again and said to them, Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him. 5So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, Here is the man! 6When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, Crucify him! Crucify him! Pilate said to them, Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him. 7The Jews answered him, We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.

8 Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. 9He entered his headquarters\* again and asked Jesus, Where are you from? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10Pilate therefore said to him, Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you? 11Jesus answered him, You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin. 12From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.

13 When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat\* on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew\* Gabbatha. 14Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, Here is your King! 15They cried out, Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him! Pilate asked



them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but the emperor. 16Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus; 17and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew\* is called Golgotha. 18There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. 19Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, Jesus of Nazareth,\* the King of the Jews. 20Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew,\* in Latin, and in Greek. 21Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, Do not write, The King of the Jews", but, This man said, I am King of the Jews. 22Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

*(verse 4)*

***Be near when I am dying; oh show thy cross to me,  
And to my rescue flying, come, Lord, and set me free:  
There eyes, new faith receiving, from Jesus shall not move,  
For those who die believing die safely through thy love.***

**Cathy: John 19: 23-42**

23When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. 24So they said to one another, Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it. This was to fulfill what the scripture says, They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. 25And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, Woman, here is your son. 27Then he said to the disciple, Here is your mother. And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), I am thirsty. 29A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. 30When Jesus had received the wine, he said, It is finished. Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. 31 Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed.

32Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. 33But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. 35(He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows\* that he tells the truth.) 36These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, None of his bones shall be broken. 37And again another passage of scripture says, They will look on the one whom they have pierced.

38 After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. 39Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. 40They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. 41Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. 42And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

***Please stand to sing # 231 -When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*** (Isaac Watts 1647-1748)

When I survey, the wondrous cross,  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

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.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,  
Sorrow and love, flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine;  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

**Prayers for others:**

Saviour of the world,

What have you done to deserve this?

And what have we done to deserve you?

Strung up between criminals, cursed and spat upon,

You wait for death, and look for us, -for us whose sin has crucified you.

To the mystery of undeserved suffering,

you bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love.

Forgive us for not knowing what we have done.

Open our eyes to see what you are doing now.

Jesus Christ, light of the world,

shed the light of your presence on those who are in need today.

Walk with those who suffer, with those who are afraid, those for whom there is no justice,

those who hunger and thirst, and those who are close to death.

Enfold those people who we bear in our hearts this day with your grace and peace.....

O Christ, the master carpenter,

Who at the last through wood and nails,

Purchased our whole salvation,

wield well your tools in

The workshop of your world, so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench, may here

be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand .

For it is in your strong name that we pray. Amen.

**(Reminder that we leave on silence)****# 233 Were you there?      Verses 1 to 5 only**

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. ...nailed Him to a tree...

3. ...pierced Him in the side...

4. ...the sun refused to shine...

5. ...when they laid him in the tomb...

**We all leave in silence. There is no benediction.**