



Apr.19, 2019 – 7:00 PM
Rev. Helen Reid

Welcome One and All
✠stand as you are able

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Prelude

Call to Worship (*adapted from Isaiah 53:1-3*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We gather here to worship God.

We gather to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us and to thank God for his love and his mercy

The prophet Isaiah asked, Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

He grew up before God like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by people, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.

Like one from whom we hide our faces. He was despised, and we esteemed him not.

✠Hymn VU#135 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Prayer of Approach

Gracious God - as we remember how your son Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, how seven times he spoke, seven words of love, we ask you to quicken our hearing. We recall how, for all three hours, His silence cried for mercy for the world and people he loved. We ask you to help us to appreciate the mystery of your love, and make us into a people who are ever more receptive of it and able to extend it to others. Amen.

Hymn 144 vs 1-2 Were You There?
(seated)

Entry of the cross

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We cry out with the Psalmist,
words echoed from the cross
My God, my God, why have you
forsaken us?**

**And yet we know in the depth of
our hearts**

**It is we who have forsaken you, O
God**

**We have become like sheep
Each one going our own way.
Trying to convince ourselves
That what we are doing without
you is OK.**

**On this day of betrayal and denial,
We know who the betrayers are.
We know who has denied Jesus.
Together and individually, we have
betrayed and denied Jesus**

**By what we have done and what
we have not done.
Your beloved world is as broken as
Jesus' body was on the cross.
Hear our cry for forgiveness O God,
Help us to turn our lives to you.
Help us to go your way.**
(silent reflection and repentance)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God says, I will put my laws in their hearts and I will write them on their minds.

"I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more"

On this darkest of days, Rejoice in the hope we know in the love and forgiveness of God.

Anthem Hanging on the Cross

MEDITATIONS ON THE SEVEN LAST
WORDS OF JESUS

Introduction

1. Jesus spoke to his persecutors

Luke 23:24

33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Comment

2. Jesus spoke to his fellow convicts

Luke 23:39-43

39One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" 40But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41And we indeed have been condemned justly,

for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." 42Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Comment

✠Hymn VU#152 There Is a Green Hill Far Away.

3 Jesus spoke to his Mother and John,
John 19:26-27

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.

Comment

Hymn VU#142 Jesus Keep Me Near the
Cross (*seated*)

4 Jesus spoke to God,

Matt 27: 45-46

45From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. 46And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Comment

✠Hymn VU#154 Why Has God
Forsaken Me?

5. Jesus spoke for himself in his own suffering

John 19 28-29

28After 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.

Comment

6. Jesus spoke to all who would hear.
John 19: 30

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished."

Comment

Hymn VU#133 Go to Dark Gethsemane
(*seated*)

7 Jesus spoke to his Heavenly Father
Luke 23:44-46

44It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Comment

✠Hymn VU#145 O Sacred Head

Offering

Prayer of Dedication: (*seated*)

Lord God, you have given us everything.

You have not held anything back.

Help us in like manner to give of ourselves

Sanctify us in Christ's name.

Bless us and all that we think, feel, say, and do that we, like Jesus, may be a blessing to others,

We ask this and all things that we ask of you through him, praying the prayer that he taught us, Our Father....

✠Hymn VU#149 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

Blessing

Go, keep your vigil at the cross through prayer, meditation and the pursuit of justice for all.

We carry with us both this day's tragedy and its saving significance for our lives.

Go with the knowledge that this end is not the End.

We trust the purpose of God

As you go, may the blessing of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you

And also with you

Extinguishing the last candle:

The parade is over. The laments, the denials, the excuses, the betrayals are over. In fact it is all over. Shadows have replaced light; fear has swallowed up hope. It is finished. What now?

(Extinguish the final candle)

*When you are ready, please leave the sanctuary in silence.

Announcements

The Peace Candle is lit as a reminder to Christians to pray for and work for world peace.

Gordon Memorial United Church will be holding a sunrise service on Easter Sunday at 6:18 am at Lions Park in Redcliff. There will be a pancake and sausage breakfast at the church after the service. Everyone welcome!

Westminster United Church will be having Communion during this Sunday's Easter Worship Service on April 21st. Reverend Helen Reid will be presiding.

St. Barnabas will be hosting an Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 20, at 8:00pm. The service will begin at the back of the Hall outside.

The Westminster United Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 22nd