



## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 15, 2022

St. Paul's United Church, Midland, ON

Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam  
Music Director: Victoria Warwick

---

### WELCOME

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE LAND

### CALL TO THE GATHERED *(written by Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C. Gathering L/E 2022 Year C)*

Did you ever wonder about the pain in God's world? In Jesus, but even before that, God willingly travelled the world on bloodied feet. God tenderly touched creation with pain-scarred hands. God loved us all and all other creatures with a broken heart because God chose to get involved with this world.

Yet we dress God up, cleaner and neater than God wants to be. We try to save ourselves from God's way of being in the world. We resist embracing the suffering of all creation.

Yet today, we are here, at the cross with Jesus. May we find ourselves broken open to God and to God's world. Amen

### OPENING PRAYER: read by Fran Hill *(written by Karen Coogan, Oasis U.C. Penticton, B.C., Gathering L/E 2022 Year C)*

Holy one, set the cock crowing. Awaken us to our denials and deferrals. Help us notice when our eyes are filled with tears. Embolden us when our bodies are trembling in fear. Strengthen us when we cannot bear our pain. Remind us dawn will come again.

Set the cock crowing, restore our faith, for in you is all forgiveness, possibility, and incomprehensible grace.

Set the cock crowing, remind us we are yours. Amen.

### REFLECTION: From an Upper Room to the Cross - Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

### HYMN: VU#132 Bitter Was the Night sung by "The Focus"

Bitter was the night, thought the cock would crow forever.  
Bitter was the night before the break of day.

Saw you passing by, told them all I didn't know you.  
Bitter was the night before the break of day.

Told them all a lie, and I told it three times over.  
Bitter was the night before the break of day.

Bitter was the night, thought there'd never be a morning.  
Bitter was the night before the break of day.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** John 19:16b-30 read Charlie Carswell

## **EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE AND REMOVING OF BLACK CLOTH**

**PRAYER:** This prayer is based on "God Weeps" MV#78 and is spoken by Fran Hill and sung by members of our St. Paul's choir.



Holy One, as Christ died on the cross, we imagine you weeping for the loss of his life and for the loss of all life. His death was an abusive response to a challenge to love instead of hate; to work for justice not injustice; to stop the abuse and hurt of innocent people. We join you in weeping for a world that does not know how to love.

**God weeps at love withheld, at strength misused, at children's innocence abused,  
And till we change the way we love, God weeps.**

Holy One, anger is a powerful weapon that destroys both body and soul. Violence, insult, injury, psychological abuse are often results of misplaced anger. Sometimes we are so set on winning that we feel we must be in control and in power. It causes people to bleed and our hearts to bleed as well, for the battering of people and our world.

**God bleeds at anger's fist, at trust betrayed, at women battered and afraid,  
And till we change the way we win, God bleeds.**



Holy One, we cry with you for those who are hungry, thirsty, dying knowing that their lives could be so much better. Change us so that we may care for ourselves and others. Redirect our focus so that all might know compassion. Transform our values so that we live a life with meaning and care for all.

**God cries at hungry mouths, at running sores, at creatures dying without cause,  
and till we change the way we care, God cries.**

Holy One, you wait for us to respond to your call to work for the kin-dom of God. Melt our hearts of stone so that compassion, not resentment breaks through into our lives. Plant seeds of peace within us so that we can sow these seeds in our communities and countries around the world. May we include even care for the earth as global warming is a crisis. Open our hearts to see the needs of the world and do what we can to reach out to help. Be patient with us O God, as we walk the path of Christ. Amen



**God waits for stones to melt, for peace to seed, for hearts to hold each other's need, and till we understand the Christ, God waits.**

**LORD'S PRAYER:** (unison - a Paraphrase by Phillip Yancey)

Eternal Spirit

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen

**CLOSING HYMN:** "You Value Each of Us the Same" sung by Jim Strathdee

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING:**

**SUNG BLESSING:** (Reproduced with permission) Sung by Ken MacDonald

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.  
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart, open your hearts to love.  
when you leave this place may you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet;  
and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.

We invite the congregation to leave in silence.