

**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 people  
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

**ANTHEM:** "Crucified, Forsaken"

**COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Please leave in silence. If you wish to remain in the sanctuary for a  
time of prayer and quiet reflection you are most welcome to do so.

We invite you to attend the  
Easter Sunrise service 7am at Little Lake Park  
followed by breakfast at St. Paul's  
and our Easter service at 10am



**St. Paul's United  
Church  
GOOD FRIDAY  
SERVICE  
Friday, March 29,  
2024 10:00 a.m.**

Minister: – Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Readers: Julianna Shaw and Herb Van Den Dool

Music: St. Paul's Choir

Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Rick & Gabriela Dell, Bruce Wilcox  
(\*Please stand if able)

**Thoughts to Ponder:**

*As you entered the church you were given a nail.*

*Hold it in your hand.*

*Ask yourself, what does Good Friday mean to me, the  
world? What difference does it make?*

**WELCOME/CALL TO THE GATHERED:**

**\* HYMN #143 "My Song is Love Unknown"**

1. My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.  
O who am I that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?
2. He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow,  
but people scorned, and none the long-for Christ would  
know. But O my Friend, my Friend indeed  
who at my need his life did spend!
3. Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing;  
sounding all the day hosannas to their King.  
Then "Crucify!" is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.

4. Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine,  
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**SCRIPTURE READING: John 19: 1-16**

**CHORAL RESPONSE (VU# 137 vs 1)**

*The Love that clothes itself in light,  
stands naked now, despised, betrayed,  
receiving blows to face and head  
from hands that Love itself has made.*

**SCRIPTURE READING: 19:17-27**

**CHORAL RESPONSE (VU# 137 vs 2)**

*The Love that lifts the stars and sun,  
collapses, spent, beneath the cross;  
the Love that fills the universe,  
goes on to death and total loss.*

**SCRIPTURE READING: "The Seven Last Words of Jesus"**

**CHORAL RESPONSE (VU# 137 vs 3)**

*Love, helpless, comes to Calvary,  
rejected, scorned and crucified,  
Love, hangs in shame, and dies alone;  
but Love abased, is glorified.*

**SCRIPTURE READING John 19: 31-42**

**CHORAL RESPONSE (VU# 137 vs 4)**

*Extinguished with the sun at noon,  
Love's light transcends all history,  
Love, wrapped in linen, Love entombed  
still wraps all heaven in mystery.*

**PRAYER:** This prayer is based on "God Weeps" MV#78 and is spoken by Karen 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.**