

Mount Royal United Church

April 15th, 2022

Good Friday

Welcome: On this Good Friday, we continue on our Lenten Road. Like the disciples, we may not know where this road will lead but pray for the courage to remain at Jesus' side. Through hardship, in suffering and darkness, we are not alone; our teacher, friend and loving God is with us.

Lenten Lights

Land Acknowledgement

Call to Worship:

One: Holy One, we gather to worship you,

All: even as we hear the ragged breathing of the one carrying the cross, even as we hear him stumble and fall.

One: Give us strength to hear the story once again.

All: Do not let us turn away from this bleak time.

One: Be with us in darkness as you are with us in light.

All: Strengthening our focus and steering our sight.

Opening Prayer: (Unison)

Holy One, under whose wings all your children find shelter, to you we cling on this night of grief. From darkness within and darkness around, protect us. From the desire to look away and run from the cross, protect us. From our own heartache at the sight of your suffering, protect us. Continue leading us in this Lenten time, on this haunting holy night, as the cross is raised, and our light extinguished. Amen.

Hymn: "O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile" VU#136

Prayer of Confession: (Unison)

Holy God, we come before you now, sad, and humbled, standing at the foot of the cross. Our hearts are breaking, just like those few friends of Jesus who stayed. We hold up to you our broken and hurting world. We have witnessed so much anger and frustration, sickness and disease, hatred, and cruelty. In those times when we have forgotten your compassion, forgive us. When we have not left the ninety-nine to find the one, forgive us. When we fail to act as your Gospel invites, forgive us. We lay now both our actions and inactions at the foot of your cross praying for your Grace to find us.

Assurance: In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, we are assured that there is no sin so terrible that God cannot forgive, no brokenness so terrible that God cannot heal. God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free and so be assured now of the forgiving love of God which makes all things new. **Amen.**

Hymn: "They Crucified My Lord" VU#141

Reading: Luke 23: 1-18

Sermon: "Powerless Pilate"

Anthem: "Mercy Tree"

Pastoral Prayer/Lord's Prayer

Extinguishing of the Light (Together)

All: Throughout this journey of Lent, we have walked with you Jesus each week remembering your road and your words:

- “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do”.
- “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise”.
- “Woman, here is your son; here is your mother”.
- “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me”.
- “I thirst”.
- **It is finished.**

One: Tonight, Jesus speaks his last and his light leaves our lives:

All: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”

Extinguishing of the Christ Light

Our friend, teacher and great hope has died. We leave now a defeated people into the silence and darkness of the days to come.

