

FOOTSCRAY BAPTIST CHURCH - GOOD FRIDAY - April 2nd, 2021
(A Good Friday Service of Readings & Prayers based on Mark's Gospel)

Music - Were you there? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8bHyNrIhNM>

Call to Worship

There is our God,
With arms spread wide in vulnerability,
Embracing the whole of our life
In its every deathly reality,

There is the Christ, our God.

Gathered into those outstretched arms
Is all that we are in our humanness,
All our failures and guilty secrets,
All our shame and responsibility
For the wounding of the innocent
In ourselves and in others.

There is the Christ, our God.

Jesus waits for us
With loving arms
And a kind heart.
There is Jesus

Waiting for us to walk forward in faith.

(Prayer from 'Liturgies for High Days' by Dorothy McRae-McMahon, p. 91)

Remembering the story

Betrayal, Arrest, Trial and Mockery (Mark 14:43-65)

⁴³ Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. ⁴⁴ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵ So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. ⁴⁷ But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. ⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? ⁴⁹ Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ All of them deserted him and fled. ⁵¹ A certain young man was following him, wearing nothing but a linen cloth. They caught hold of him, ⁵² but he left the linen cloth and ran off naked. ⁵³ They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. ⁵⁴ Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵ Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. ⁵⁶ For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷ Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹ But even on this point their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰ Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?" ⁶¹ But he was silent and did not answer. Again, the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" ⁶² Jesus said, "I am; and 'you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,' and 'coming with the clouds of heaven.'" ⁶³ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴ You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?" All of them condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵ Some began to

spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" The guards also took him over and beat him.

Prayer:

God of us all,

We confess that we have betrayed others, ourselves and you.

We have deserted another in their time of need.

We have given false testimony to save ourselves.

We have taken your name in vain and denied your part in our lives.

Have mercy on us and shower us in your forgiveness.

We pray for those who have had their silence interpreted as assent.

We pray for those who have been falsely accused and tried.

We pray for those who have been subjected to humiliation.

We pray for those who experience violence and violation.

Shower them in love we pray, in the name of the crucified one. Amen.

Denial (Mark 14:66-72)

66 While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. 67 When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." 68 But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. 69 And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." 70 But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." 71 But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." 72 At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Prayer:

God of us all,

We confess that we have denied others truth, our friendship and our honesty.

We confess that sometimes our guilt threatens to overwhelm us.

Have mercy on us and shower us in your forgiveness.

We pray for those who are denied justice, denied their needs, denied life in all its abundance.

We pray for those who weep because there is no one standing up for them.

Like Peter, we remember those times we have not lived up to who you call us to be.

Help us remember the needs of others and your love for the world.

Shower us all in love we pray, in the name of the crucified one. Amen.

Sentencing and Mockery (Mark 15:1-20)

15 As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. 2 Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." 3 Then the chief priests accused him of many things. 4 Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." 5 But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed. 6 Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. 7 Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. 8 So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. 9 Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 10 For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. 11 But the chief priests

stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹² Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³ They shouted back, "Crucify him!" ¹⁴ Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. ¹⁶ Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Prayer:

God of us all,
We confess our lack of courage to discover the truth.
We confess that we too have let others take the fall for our failings.
We confess that have tried to win at any cost, oblivious to the price others pay.
We confess that we look for the easy way out of situations.
Have mercy on us and shower us in your forgiveness.
We pray for those who have become pawns in another's game.
We pray for those who have been mocked and ridiculed.
We pray for those who have been arrested and sentenced unjustly.
We pray for those who have had their dignity stripped away by others.
Shower them in love we pray, in the name of the crucified one. Amen.

Carrying the Cross (Mark 15:21)

²¹ They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

Prayer:

God of us all,
Just as Simon of Cyrene carried the cross for you for a time, you too call us to share the pain of others, to walk the road with them, to lighten the load.
We pray for peace in places where there is unrest and turmoil, especially in Myanmar.
We pray for justice where tyranny reigns.
We pray for freedom where people are imprisoned by fear, walls or expectations.
We pray for comfort where there is sadness or loss.
Strengthen us to play our part in lessening their burden, in the name of the crucified one. Amen.

Crucifixion (Mark 15:22-32)

²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. ²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down

from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Prayer:

God of us all,

We confess that we put others to the test.

We confess that we have taunted the less fortunate or those in tricky situations.

We confess that we have made a mockery of others, of their beliefs, their feelings.

Have mercy on us and shower us in your forgiveness.

We pray for those whose lives are gambled by others.

We pray for all who are derided, mocked or taunted.

Shower them in love we pray, in the name of the crucified one. Amen.

Music - Were you there?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8bHyNrIhNM>

Breathing His Last (Mark 15:33 - 41)

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" ⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Prayer:

God of us all,

We are truly sorry for the times we have abandoned or forsaken others in their time of need.

We are sorry for the times we have stood at a distance, too fearful to intervene.

Have mercy on us and shower us in your forgiveness.

We pray for those who are dying.

We pray for those who sit, watching and waiting for another to die.

We pray for those who are prepared to name who you really are, even in the midst of opposition or ridicule.

Shower them in love we pray, in the name of the crucified one. Amen.

Burial (Mark 15:42 - 47)

⁴² When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

Reflection: Standing By

Sending Out

Go blessed by the company of God, who dies rather than leave us alone.
Go blessed by the faithfulness of Christ, who chooses life in the face of death,
And go as those who stay with the truth, even as we wait for Easter Day. Amen

(Prayer from 'Liturgies for High Days' by Dorothy McRae-McMahon, p. 95)

Music - Jesus Remember Me

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RGB2E0NzO2A>

All bible readings taken from NRSV

All prayers, unless otherwise stated by Cheryl Williams.