

A joint service between  
**St Giles Presbyterian Church**  
&  
**Bytown Community Church**



***Soldiers Casting Lots for Christ's Garments***, by Blake, William, 1757-1827, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*.

**Good Friday**

**March 29, 2024**

Prelude: *Ah Holy Jesu*     *Herzliebster Jesu*, arr. R. Shephard

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,

**All: who redeems us from sin and death.**

One: For us and for our salvation,

**All: Christ became obedient unto death,  
even death on a cross.**

One: Blessed be the name of the Lord,

**All: Now and forever.**

**\*\*Hymn:** O sacred head, sore wounded

**239**

- 1. O sacred head, sore wounded,  
with grief and shame weighed down,  
now scornfully surrounded  
with thorns, thine only crown;  
how art thou pale with anguish,  
with sore abuse and scorn;  
how does that visage languish  
which once was bright as morn.**
- 2. What thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
was all for sinners' gain;  
mine, mine was the transgression,  
but thine the deadly pain;  
lo, here I fall, my Saviour;  
'tis I deserve thy place;**

**look on me with thy favour;  
oh grant to me thy grace.**

**3. What language shall I borrow  
to thank Thee, dearest Friend,  
for this, thy dying sorrow,  
thy pity without end?**

**Oh make me thine forever,  
and should I fainting be,  
oh let me never, never  
outlive my love for thee.**

**4. Be near when I am dying,  
oh show thy cross to me!  
and, for my rescue flying,  
come, Lord, and set me free:  
these eyes, new faith receiving,  
from Jesus shall not move;  
for those who die believing  
die safely through thy love.**

### Prayer of Adoration

Gracious God, on this day we gather to remember the suffering death of Jesus. He was despised and rejected, oppressed and afflicted, yet he was prepared to be wounded for our transgressions.

**We come overwhelmed by the depth of Jesus' love for us, and his commitment to defeat evil, even when that meant his own suffering and his own death.**

In his willingness to make us righteous, he poured himself out to death, even death on a cross, and so, in response to such love and sacrifice, we commit ourselves as his disciples to overcome evil with good, suffering with wholeness, and oppression with justice.

Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of love and mercy, you sent Jesus into the world so that we might have life and have it abundantly. Yet our lives are often less than you hope for. We have filled the world with violence and terror because we do not trust the way of compassion and service. In the face of uncertainty and trouble, we give up on you and one another. We do not trust the power of your love. Lord, have mercy upon us for the sake of Christ, our Saviour and Lord.**

Assurance of Pardon

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the God who loves us. Neither death nor life, nor things

present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. No matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God's deep love will never let us go.

Sung Response "Stay with Us, O Lord Jesus Christ" x 2

**Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Night will soon fall.  
Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Light in our darkness.**

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 53:1–6

Sung Response "Stay with Us, O Lord Jesus Christ" x 2

**Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Night will soon fall.  
Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Light in our darkness.**

Psalm 22

*Refrain 2:* **My God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why have you forsaken me?**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from helping me,  
from the words of my groaning?

**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night but find no rest.**

Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**In you our ancestors trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.**

**To you they cried and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

But I am a worm and not human,  
scorned by others and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me;  
they sneer at me; they shake their heads and say  
to me:

**“Commit your cause to the Lord;  
let the Lord deliver—  
let the Lord rescue the one in whom the Lord  
delights!”**

Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

**On you I was cast from my birth,  
and since my mother bore me you have been  
my God.**

Do not be far from me,  
**for trouble is near,  
and there is no one to help.**

Many bulls encircle me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;  
they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

**I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;  
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.**

For dogs are all around me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
My hands and feet have shrivelled  
I can count all my bones.  
They stare and gloat over me;  
they divide my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

**But you, O Lord, do not be far away!  
O my help, come quickly to my aid!**

Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog!  
Save me from the mouth of the lion!

**From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.**  
I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

**You who fear the Lord, praise God!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify God;  
stand in awe, all you offspring of Israel!**

For you, Lord, did not despise or disdain  
the affliction of the afflicted;

**you did not hide your face from me  
but heard me when I cried to you.**

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear you.

**The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord.  
May your hearts live forever!**

All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord,

**and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.**

For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
who rules over the nations.

**All who sleep in the earth  
shall bow down to the Lord;**

all who go down to the dust,  
shall bow before the Lord;  
and I shall live for God.



**Posterity will serve the Lord;  
future generations will be told about the Lord  
and proclaim deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that God has done it.**

Second Reading: Mark 15:21–32

Sung Response “Stay with Us, O Lord Jesus Christ” x 2

**Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Night will soon fall.  
Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
Light in our darkness.**

Third Reading Mark 15:33–41

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**\*\*Hymn:** Beneath the cross of Jesus

**238**

- 1. Beneath the cross of Jesus  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home with in the wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and the burden of the day.**
- 2. Upon the cross of Jesus  
mine eyes at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me,**

**and from my stricken heart with tears  
two wonders I confess:  
the wonders of redeeming love  
and my own unworthiness.**

- 3. I take, O cross, thy shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face;  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss;  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.**

Sermon Forsaken

Unison Prayer

**God, you promise never to forsake us, but to  
bring us to life, nurture us with your presence,  
and sustain us even in the hour of our death.  
Meet us in our deepest doubts when we feel  
abandoned, drowning in our fear of your absence.  
Visit us in the tension between our yearning and  
our anger, that we may know your mercy and  
grace in our time of need. Amen.**

1. **What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss  
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,  
to lay aside his crown for my soul.**
  
2. **To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.  
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!**
  
3. **And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.  
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,  
and through eternity I'll sing on!**

(The service ends. You may sit and pray in silence)

