

Good Friday
Joint Service
St Giles Presbyterian Church
Bytown Community Church



After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" (John 19:28)

April 18, 2025

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People. The Algonquin peoples have lived on this land since time immemorial. We are grateful to have the opportunity to be present in this territory.

Prelude: Drop, Drop Slow Tears Vernon Hoyle

Welcome

Call to Worship (Adopted from Isaiah 53, the Message)

One: There was nothing attractive about Christ,

**All: Nothing to cause us
to take a second look.**

One: Jesus was looked down on
and passed over,

**All: A man who suffered,
who knew pain firsthand.**

One: But it was our pains he carried

**All: Our disfigurements,
all the things wrong with us.**

One: It was our sins that did that to him,
that ripped and tore and crushed him
—our sins!

**All: He took the punishment,
and that made us whole.**

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 to 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

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of loving kindness, you sent Christ into the world that we might have life and have it abundantly. Yet we live lives that are often missing the mark, and sometimes deadly. We standby while the world is filled with violence and terror; our trust in you is shallow and our faith falters. In the face of uncertainty and trouble, we forget that your loving kindness governs all things. Forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be through Christ our Lord. Amen.

****Hymn: "O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile" 237**

**1. Oh, come and mourn with me awhile;
oh come ye to the Saviour's side;
oh come, together let us mourn;
Jesus, our Lord, is crucified.**

- 2. Have we no tears to shed for him,
while soldiers scoff and foes deride?
Ah! look how patiently he hangs:
Jesus, our Lord, is crucified.**
- 3. Seven times he spoke, seven words of love,
and all three hours his silence cried,
'Forgive: they know not what they do.'
Jesus, our Lord, is crucified.**
- 4. O love of God! O human sin!
In this dread act your strength is tried,
and victory remains with love:
for Christ, our Lord, is crucified.**

Scripture Luke 23:26–27, 32–34

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Chant #233 Were you there (v.1)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

.....(silence)

Luke 23:39–42

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."

Chant #233 Were you there (v.2)

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

.....(silence)

John 19:25b–27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his

mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Chant #233 Were you there (v.3)

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
.....(silence)

Psalm 22

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

Matthew 27:45–46

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land
until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock
Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema
sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?"

Chant #233 Were you there (v.4)

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

.....(silence)

1. **Beneath the cross of Jesus**
I fain would take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within 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.

Luke 23:46

Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

.....(silence)

Luke 23:47–53

When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things. Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.

Depart in Silence

