

**Good Friday
Joint Service
St Giles Presbyterian Church
Bytown Community Church**



Soldiers Casting Lots for Christ's Garments, 1800, painting by William Blake, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*.

April 03, 2026

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come, and watch with me awhile.

All: We come to stand by the cross.

One: Come, and pray with me awhile.

All: We come to stand with Jesus.

One: Come, and mourn with me awhile.

All: We come to weep for Jesus.

One: Come to proclaim, 'God's victory remains with love.

All: We come to open our hearts for Jesus, the Crucified.

****Hymn:** Go to dark Gethsemane

230

- 1. Go to dark Gethsemane,
You that feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
From his grief turn not away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**
- 2. Follow to the judgment hall;
see him beaten bound, arraigned;
patiently he bears it all,
all our pain his soul sustained.
Shun not suffering, shame or loss;
learn of Christ to bear the cross.**

**3. Climb to Calvary's mournful site;
there the Lord of glory reigns;
there, through weakness, wins the fight,
Over sin our victory gains.
"It is finished!" Hear him cry;
there, in Christ, we dare to die.**

Opening Prayer

Sung response: Behold, the Lamb of God 525

**Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin, the sin of the world**

First Reading: Matthew 26:57–66

(Keep silence for 20-30 seconds)

Unison Prayer

**Almighty God, in Christ, you stood silent before
false accusers. Justice was blind to the lies and
the desires of the powerful to have their way.
Strengthen our hearts this day so we will always
stand up for the truth. Amen.**

Sung response: Behold, the Lamb of God 525

**Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin, the sin of the world**

Second Reading: Matthew 26:69–75

(Keep silence for 20-30 seconds)

Unison Prayer

Almighty God, we hate to think that we would desert or deny you, your Son or your way. On this day when we see your commitment to us cost you everything, deepen our commitment to you. Strengthen us whenever we are tempted to deny you in our words or our actions. Amen.

Sung response: Behold, the Lamb of God 525
**Behold the Lamb of God, behold the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin, the sin of the world**

Third Reading: Matthew 27:1–2, 11–24

(Keep silence for 20-30 seconds)

****Hymn:** Ah, holy Jesu, how has thou offended 234
(verses 1-3)

- 1. Ah! holy Jesus, how has thou offended
that cruel judgement hath on thee descended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted.**
- 2. What was the reason? Who hath thus displayed thee?
Ours is the treason, Saviour, that betrayed thee.
Our sin, Lord Jesus, sold thee and denied thee:
we crucified thee.**
- 3. See, the good Shepherd for the sheep is offered:
the slave hath sinned and the Son hath suffered**

**for our atonement; while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.**

Fourth Reading: Matthew 27:1–27–40

(Keep silence for 20-30 seconds)

Unison Prayer:

**Gracious God and Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
People mock you and we do not know what to say.
People curse with your name and we say nothing. We
watch others carry the cross for you, but we draw
back at shouldering more responsibility for your
sake. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Sung response: Lord, have mercy upon us

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Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Fifth Reading: Matthew 27:45–51, 54

(Keep silence for 20-30 seconds)

Unison Prayer:

**God of life, it is unbearable to contemplate your death
in Christ. The taunts pierce our hearts like the nails.
We cannot imagine the pain. Today it feels as if we are
there, watching, waiting, weeping. When the
darkness of pain overshadows us, help us remember
that you know our pain better than anyone else. Amen**

- 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.**

Sixth Reading: Isaiah 53:1–6

Message: The Suffering Servant

Prayers for a Suffering World

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our

debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

****Hymn:** When I survey the wondrous cross **231**
(to the tune of O Waly, Waly, #25)

- 1. When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.**
- 2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**
- 3. See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**
- 4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

(The service ends in silent prayer)