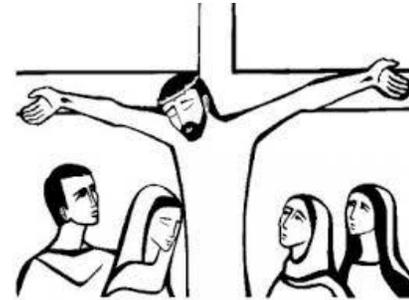


Assurance “On the cross Jesus prayed, ‘Forgive them
for they know not what they do.’
Sometimes neither do we.
And so we are forgiven and restored with love.
Thanks be to God.”

Good Friday April 2, 2021
Steveston United Church

Hymn “*Were You There?*” insert



Extinguish Christ candle

**All: As we extinguish the flame we acknowledge
the pain and sorrow we each have experienced,
the pain and sorrow we each have caused.
We acknowledge our deep yearning for healing,
wholeness and new life,
and we remember the death of the one called
Jesus of Nazareth.**

Lighting the Christ Candle

One: It is finished.

All: Jesus’ physical presence among us is over.

One: The time of waiting has begun.

All: But the story is not over.

We go into the world to watch and to wait.

One: We know that even when life is full of shadows
and stripped of meaningGod will never leave us.

All: We go into the world to watch and wait.

Call to Worship

One: Holy One, we are here on this mournful day.

**All: We hear you calling, and we hear silence from
the one who carries the cross....our cross.**

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

**All: Don’t let us turn away from this bleak day.
Be with us in the darkness.**

.....silent prayer.

Prayer “Good Friday God, amidst the encircling pain you are
there. So are you with us in our Good Friday griefs;
stronger than pain; stronger than death, new life but a
breath away. Mix your hope with the nails, the crown
made from thorns, the cross, in Christ’s name we pray.
Amen.”

Hymn “*The Old Rugged Cross*” insert

Scripture Reading

Luke 22:39 -- 23:56

Symbols of Holy Week

1. Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem (*palm branches*)
"Blessed is the name of the one
who comes in the name the Lord!"
2. The Institution of the Last Supper (*bread and grape juice*)
"This is my body, broken for you.
This is the cup of new life.
Do these in remembrance of me."
3. The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus (*silver coins*)
Judas said, "What will you give me if I betray
him to you?" ...thirty pieces of silver...
4. Peter Denies Jesus (*rooster*)
"Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

Hymn

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

*"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 noon-tide heat and the burden of the day."*

5. Before the Council and Pilate and Soldiers (*robe, crown*)

"How can you be the Messiah?" "You say I am."
Pilate ordered soldiers to take Jesus away and have
him crucified. The soldiers mocked him and put an
elegant, purple robe on him and a crown of thorns,
a reed for a scepter. They took Jesus away, beating him
and spitting on him. They took the reed and hit him on
the head with it.

After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe
and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him
away to be crucified. (*nail*)
(Simone of Cyrene was ordered to carry Jesus' cross)
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.

7. The Death and Burial of Jesus

It was afternoon when the sun's light failed...
Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands
I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed
his last.

When Joseph learned Jesus was dead, he was granted
the body. Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking
down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid
it in the tomb that had been prepared for him.
Women came from Galilee and saw the tomb and
how his body had been laid.

A Black Cloth A symbol of our human vulnerability;
a reminder of how our own lives are connected
with those who weave the cloth; a reminder of
of a sign of grief;
a symbol of mourning.

An Act of Confession

**All: Holy God,
you ask us to stand at the foot of the cross, and look up.
But we won't, we can't.
Because if we do, we'll see all of our sins, right there,
in the flesh, and we don't know if we can take it.
We can only say, "Forgive us."**