



Melville United Church
Friday April 3, 2015
Good Friday



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Today's service is based on "Draw the Circle Wide" written by David Sparks, Gathering, Lent/Easter 2015, page 69. Used with Permission

Welcome

Prelude/Centering Time: J. S. Bach - O Sacred Head

Call to Worship:

Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

The love of Jesus refused compromise with the powerful.

Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

The love of Jesus took the tough but faithful road.

Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

The love of Jesus struggled with the easy way out.

Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

The love of Jesus endured the rejection of his friends.

It is the love of Jesus that calls us here.

Introduction

***Hymn:** Love Divine All Loves Excelling **VU 333**

Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46 (Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane)

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane and said to the disciples, "Stay here while I go over there and pray." Jesus took along Peter, James and John and started to feel grief and anguish. Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death. Please, stay here, and stay awake with me."

Jesus went on a little further and fell prostrate in prayer: "Abba, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by. But not what I want - what you want."

When Jesus returned to the disciples, he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Couldn't you stay awake with me for even an hour? Be on

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Team Ministry

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| Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care | Rev. Marion Loree |
| Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach | Jennifer Auger |
| Minister of Music: | Matthias Schmidt |
| Church Secretary: | Gerri McCullough |
| Custodian: | Robert Mitchell |
| Chair of Church Council: | Mary Lloyd |
| Pastoral Care: | Millie Cumming, Elizabeth Stinson |
| Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain | Alison Rainford |
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guard, and pray that you may not undergo trial. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

Withdrawing a second time, Jesus prayed, “Abba, if this cup cannot pass me by without my drinking it, your will be done!”

Once more Jesus returned and found the disciples asleep; they could not keep their eyes open. Jesus left them again, withdrew somewhat and prayed for a third time, saying the same words as before. Finally Jesus returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping? Still taking your rest? The hour is upon us - the Chosen One is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up! Let us be on our way! Look, my betrayer is here.”

Jesus Feels the Isolation

Silence

Sung Response: Draw the Circle Wide - MV 145 - refrain only

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Scripture: Matthew 26:69-75

(Peter denies Jesus)

While this was happening, Peter was sitting in the courtyard. One of the attendants came over and said, “You were with Jesus the Galilean too, weren’t you?”

But Peter denied it in front of everyone. He said, “I don’t know what you’re talking about!”

When Peter went out to the gate, another attendant saw him and said to those nearby, “This one was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Again he cursed and denied it: “I don’t know him!”

A little while later, some bystanders came over to Peter and said, “You certainly are one of them! Even your accent gives you away!”

At that, Peter began cursing and swore, “I don’t know the man!”

Just then a rooster began to crow, and Peter remembered the prediction Jesus had made: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” Peter went out and cried bitterly.

A Friend of Jesus Has Let Him Down

Silence

A Prayer of Hope

In the midst of uncertainty and doubt,

we need your presence, O God.

In the midst of betrayal and rejection,

we need your friendship, O God.

In the midst of powerlessness and despair,

we need your confidence, O God.

When the fear of death comes home to us,

we need your eternal love, O God. Amen.

Sung Response: Draw the Circle Wide - MV 145 - refrain only

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Scripture: Matthew 27:11-14

(Pilate questions Jesus)

Then Jesus was arraigned before Pontius Pilate, the governor, who questioned him. “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus replied, “You say that I am.”

Yet when Jesus was accused by the chief priests and elders, he made no reply. Pilate said to Jesus, “Surely you hear how many charges they bring against you?” But Jesus did not answer Pilate on a single count, much to the governor’s surprise.

Scripture: Matthew 27:27-31

(The soldiers make fun of Jesus)

The governor’s soldiers took Jesus inside the Praetorium and assembled the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and wrapped him in a scarlet military cloak. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they pressed it into his head and stuck a reed in his right hand. Then they began to mock Jesus by dropping to their knees, saying, “All hail, King of the Jews!” They also spat at him. Afterward they took hold of the reed and struck Jesus on the head. Finally, when they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes and led him off to crucifixion.

What It’s Like to Be Powerless

Silence

Sung Response: Draw the Circle Wide - MV 145 - refrain only

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Choir Anthem: I Danced In the Morning

Prayer of Confession:

O God, it is hard to believe that the friends of Jesus would let him down at the crucial moment.

We confess that we, too have not always been friends to trust.

O God, it is hard to believe that the leaders with the power would fail to understand the goodness of Jesus.

We confess that we, too, have used our power over others unwisely.

O God, it is hard to believe that popular opinion could be manipulated to condemn a wonderful person.

We confess that we, too have gone along with the crowd.

O God, it is hard to believe that the cruel death of crucifixion was tolerated in a civilized society.

We confess that we, too, have been slow to speak out against the cruelty and injustice of our time.

Silence:**Words of Assurance:**

We stand at the foot of the cross and look up. We regain our Christian perspective.

We will see our weakness through the eyes of Christ.

The cross changes our perspective.

We will find courage through the example of Christ.

The cross changes our perspective.

We will stay the course through the persistence of Christ.

The cross brings us to a new way.

**We will experience peace through working in the spirit of Christ.
Amen.**

***Hymn:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

VU 149

Scripture: Matthew 27:32-44

(Jesus is crucified)

On their way out, they met a Cyrenian named Simon, whom they pressed into service to carry the cross. Upon arriving at a site called Golgotha - which means Skull Place - they gave Jesus a drink of wine mixed with a narcotic herb, which Jesus tasted but refused to drink.

Once they had nailed Jesus to the cross, they divided his clothes among them by rolling dice; then they sat down and kept watch over him. Above his head, they put the charge against him in writing: "This is Jesus, King of the Jews." Two robbers were crucified along with Jesus, one at his right and one at his left.

People going by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads and saying, "So you are the one who was going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself, why don't you? Come down off that cross if you are God's Own!"

The chief priests, the religious scholars and the elders also joined in the jeering: "He saved others but he cannot save himself! So he's the King of Israel! Let's see him come down from that cross, and then we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God rescue him now, if God is happy with him! After all, he claimed to be God's Own!" The robbers who had been crucified with Jesus jeered at him in the same way.

The Crucifixion Echoes Down the Ages**Silence**

Sung Response: Draw the Circle Wide - MV 145 - refrain only

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

**Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

Scripture: Matthew 27:45-56

(The death of Jesus)

At noon, a darkness fell over the whole land until about three in the afternoon. At that hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken

me?” This made some of the bystanders who heard it remark. “He is calling for Elijah?” One of them hurried off and got a sponge. He soaked the sponge in cheap wine and, sticking it on a reed, tried to make Jesus drink. The others said, “Leave him alone. Let’s see whether Elijah comes to his rescue.”

Once again, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, then he gave up his spirit. Suddenly, the curtain in front of the Holy of Holies was ripped in half from top to bottom. The earth quaked, boulders were split and tombs were opened. Many bodies of holy ones who had fallen asleep were raised. After Jesus’ resurrection, they came out of their tombs and entered the holy city, and appeared to many.

The centurion and his cohort, who were standing guard over Jesus’ body, were terror-stricken at seeing the earth quake and all that was happening, and said, “Clearly, this was God’s Own!”

People are Being Crucified All Over the World **Silence**

Sung Response: Draw the Circle Wide - MV 145 - refrain only

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Hymn: There Is a Green Hill Far Away **VU 152**

Scripture: Matthew 27:57-61

(The burial of Jesus)

When evening fell, a wealthy man from Arimathea named Joseph, who had become a disciple of Jesus, came to request the body of Jesus; Pilate issued an order for its release. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in fresh linen and laid it in his own tomb, which had been hewn out of rock. Then Joseph rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. But Mary of Magdala and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

We Also Suffer Crucifixion

Silence:

Sung Response: Draw the Circle Wide - MV 145 - refrain only
Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Prayer: Spirit’s Cry (by Bruce Sanguin, If Darwin Prayed, pg 64)

Prayer of Jesus:

Hymn: Were You There? **VU144**

You are invited to leave in silence whenever you feel ready.