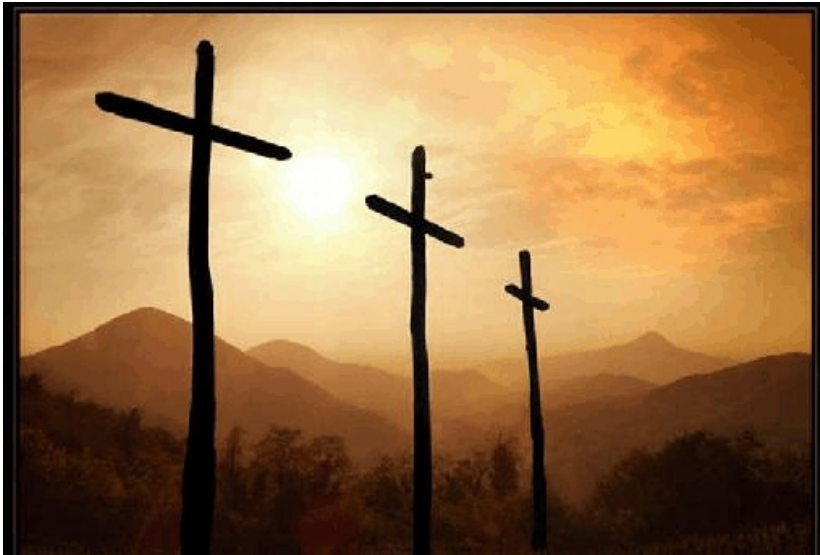


Melville United Church
Sunday, March 30, 2018
Good Friday



* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude:

Welcome:

Call to Worship:

You have walked with Jesus through the last few weeks.
You have come with him to this place.

Is it your intention to continue to follow Jesus?

Yes, it is our intention to follow Jesus.

Then let us walk with him this day.

Hymn: Will You come and Follow Me

VU 567

Opening Prayer:

Will we come and follow, you ask us, O God,
as we watch what is happening to Jesus today?

**We are not sure it is a question
we want to answer today.**

Will we come and follow,
when the path is filled with chaos and betrayal?

**Will we come and follow,
when we ourselves are overwhelmed with emotions and grief?**

Will we come and follow,
and be witnesses to this great act of love?

**Yet, here we are, as witnesses,
sad and fearful as we may be. Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus, We Are Here

MV 189

**Jesus, we are here; Jesus we are here;
Jesus, we are here; we are here for you.
Jesus, we are here; Jesus we are here;
Jesus, we are here; we are here for you.**

<p>Melville United Church St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781 Team Ministry</p>	
Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jen Auger
Minister of Music Team:	Rob White, Suzanne Flewelling
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
Pastoral Care	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

March 30, 2018

Scripture: Mark 14:10-11 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went off to the chief priests to hand Jesus over to them. Hearing what he had to say, they were jubilant and promised to give him money. Then Judas started looking for an opportune moment to betray Jesus.

(Candle of Judas is extinguished)

Scripture: Mark 14:32-42 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

Then they came to the place named Gethsemane. Jesus said to them, "Sit down here while I pray." Jesus took along with him Peter, James and John. Then he began to be very distressed and troubled, and said to them, "My heart is filled with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch."

Jesus went a little further off and fell to the ground, praying that if it were possible this hour might pass him by. He said, "Abba, you have the power to do all things. Take this cup away from me. But let it be not my will, but your will."

When Jesus returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "Asleep, Simon? Could you not stay wake for even an hour? Be on guard and pray that you not be put to the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Going back again, Jesus began to pray in the same words. Upon returning Jesus found them asleep once again. They could not keep their eyes open, nor did they know what to say to him.

He returned a third time and said, "Still sleeping? Still taking your rest? It will have to do. The hour is upon us - the Chosen One is being handed into the clutches of evildoers. Get up, let's go. Look! Here comes my betrayer."

(Candles of James and John are extinguished)

Anthem: Pray One Hour

-P. McKay

Scripture: Mark 14:43-50 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came up accompanied by a crowd carrying swords and clubs; they had been sent by the chief priests, the religious scholars and the elders. The betrayer had arranged this signal for them: "Whomever I embrace is the one;

arrest him and take him away under guard." Judas went directly to Jesus, embraced him and said, "Rabbi!" At this, they laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.

One of the bystanders drew a sword and struck the high priest's attendant, cutting off an ear. Jesus then said, "Why have you come to arrest me with swords and clubs, as though I were a robber? I was within your reach daily, teaching in the Temple precincts, yet you never arrested me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

With that, all the disciples deserted Jesus and fled.

(8 candles of the other disciples are extinguished)

Scripture: Mark 14:53-72 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

Then they led Jesus off to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and religious scholars gathered together. Peter followed at a distance right into the high priest's courtyard, where he found a seat with the Temple guard and began to warm himself at the fire.

The chief priests with the whole Sanhedrin were busy soliciting testimony against Jesus that might lead to his death, but they could not find any. Many gave false testimony against Jesus, but their stories did not agree. Some, for instance, on taking the stand, testified falsely by saying, "We heard him declare, 'I will destroy this Temple made by human hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands!'" but even in this, their testimony did not agree.

The high priest stood up before the court and began to interrogate Jesus: "Have you no answer to what these people are testifying against you?" But Jesus remained silent and made no reply. Once again the high priest interrogated him: "Are you the Messiah, the Only Begotten of the Blessed One?"

Jesus replied, "I am! And you will see the Chosen One seated at the right hand of the Power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

At that, the high priest tore his robes and said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What is your verdict?" They all said Jesus was guilty and condemned him to death.

Some of them began to spit on Jesus. They blindfolded and hit him, saying, "Prophecy!" The guards beat him too.

While Peter was down in the courtyard, one of the attendants of the high priest came along. When she noticed Peter seated near the fire, she looked more closely at him and said, "You too were with Jesus of

Nazareth.” Peter said, ‘I don’t know what you’re talking about! What do you mean?’ Then Peter went out into the gateway. At that moment a rooster crowed.

The woman, keeping an eye on him, started again to tell the bystanders, “He’s one of them.” Once again Peter denied it. A little later the bystanders said to him once more, “You are certainly one of them! You’re a Galilean, aren’t you?”

Peter began to curse, and swore, “I don’t even know who you’re talking about!” The cock crowed a second time. And Peter recalled the prediction Jesus had made: “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” He rushed away, weeping.

(Candle of Peter is extinguished)

Hymn: Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face

VU 105

Scripture: Mark 15:1-17 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

As soon as it was daybreak the chief priests, the elders and religious scholars and the whole Sanhedrin reached a decision. They bound Jesus and led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, who interrogated him. “Are you the King of the Jews?” He asked.

Jesus responded, “You are the one who is saying it.”

The chief priests then brought many accusations against him. Pilate interrogated Jesus again: “Surely you have some answer? See how many accusations they are leveling against you! But to Pilate’s astonishment, Jesus made no further response.

Now whenever there was a festival, Pilate would release for them one prisoner - anyone they asked for. There was a prisoner named Barabbas who was jailed along with the rioters who had committed murder in the uprising. When the crowd came to ask that Pilate honour the custom, Pilate rejoined, Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” Pilate was aware, of course, that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over. But the chief priests incited the crowd to have him release Barabbas instead. Pilate again asked them, “What am I to do with the one you call the King of the Jews?”

The people shouted back, “Crucify him!”

“Why?” Pilate asked. “What crime has he committed?”

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them,

and, after having Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified.

Hymn: O Sacred Head (verses 1 & 2) **VU 145**

Scripture: Mark 15:18-37 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

The soldiers led Jesus away into the hall known as the Praetorium; then they assembled the whole battalion. They dressed Jesus in royal purple, then wove a crown of thorns and put it on him. They began to salute him: “All hail! King of the Jews!” They kept striking Jesus on the head with a reed, spitting at him and kneeling in front of him pretending to pay homage. When they had finished mocking him, they stripped him of the purple and dressed him in his own clothes. Then they led him out to be crucified.

A passerby named Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was coming in from the fields. The soldiers pressed him into service to carry Jesus’ cross. Then they brought Jesus to the site of Golgotha - which means “the place of a skull.”

They tried to give him wine drugged with myrrh, but he would not take it. Then they nailed him to the cross and divided up his garments by rolling dice for them to see what each should take. It was about nine in the morning when they crucified him.

The inscription listing the charge read, “The King of the Jews.” With Jesus they crucified two robbers, one at this right and one at his left.

People going by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads and saying, “So you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days! Save yourself now by coming down from that cross!” The chief priests and the religious scholars also joined in and jeered, “He saved others, but he can’t save himself! Let ‘the Messiah, the King of Israel’ come down from that cross right now so that we can see it and believe in him!” those who had been crucified with him hurled the same insult.

When noon came, darkness fell on the whole countryside and lasted until about three in the afternoon. At three, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani?” Which means, ‘My God, My god, why have you forsaken me?’ A few of the bystanders who heard it remarked, “Listen! He is calling on Elijah!” Someone ran and soaked a sponge in sour wine and stuck it on a reed to try to make Jesus drink, saying, “Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down.”

Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.

(Christ candle is extinguished)

Hymn: They Crucified My Lord (verses 1,2,5)

VU 141

Scripture: Mark 15:40-47 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)

There were also some women present looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary of Magdala; Mary, the mother of James the younger and Joses, and Salome. These women had followed Jesus when he was in Galilee and attended to his needs. There were also many others who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

As it grew dark - it was Preparation Day, that is, the eve of the Sabbath - a distinguished member of the Sanhedrin, Joseph from Arimathea, arrived. He was waiting for the reign of God, and he gathered up courage and sought an audience with Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate was surprised that Jesus should have died so soon. He summoned the centurion and inquired whether Jesus was already dead. Upon learning that this was so, Pilate released the body to Joseph.

Then, having bought a linen shroud, Joseph took the body of Jesus down, wrapped him in the linen and laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of rock. Finally, he rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb. Meanwhile, Mary of Magdala and Mary, the mother of Joses, were looking on and observed where Jesus had been laid.

(candles of the women are extinguished)

Hymn: Were You there? (Verses 1,2,3)

VU 144

Reflection:

Silent Reflection:

Who now will carry the good news of Jesus into the world?

(Silence)

Is there anyone left to follow the Way of Jesus?

(Silence)

Will you continue to follow the Way of Jesus?

(Silence)

What will that mean for your life?

(Silence)

Prayer:

Prayer of Jesus:

Hymn: Were You There (verses 4,5)

VU 144

Sending Out:

Sing: Jesus Remember Me.

VU 148

(After the Christ candle is carried from the sanctuary, you may leave when you choose. The singing will continue until the last person is gone.)