**ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH**



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**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan**

**April 15, 2022**

 **Good Friday**

**WE GATHER**

**Extinguishing the Candle:**

**What we contemplate this day is beyond words, beyond understanding. May the Holy Spirit intercede for us and give voice to what, for us, is inexpressible. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Almighty God,
we would be lying to you and deceiving ourselves
if we pretended to be joyful and satisfied tonight (today).
We are not.
The violent pain that our friend Christ Jesus endured
makes us want to hide and wait until it is over;
it makes us wish to ignore his wounds altogether.
Yet in the miracle of grace, you have drawn us here,
along with millions of others around the earth,
that we might remember Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice
and covenant of grace.
As we worship you tonight
and undertake the ancient work of remembering,
we ask that you open our hearts to feel anew
exactly why this is called “Good Friday.”
In the name of Christ our Lord, amen.**

**Gathering Hymn: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus - 357 VU**

**Prayer of Confession and Approach -**

He has borne and carried the evil of our hearts.
**He has borne my evil.**
Because of our transgressions, he was wounded.
**Because of my hate, prejudice, immorality,
greed, lying, intolerance, and blasphemy,
he was wounded.**
Our iniquities crushed him and . . .

**I crushed him! I drove the nails.
I wove the thorny crown. I pierced his side.
I shouted “crucify him.”**
The Lord laid it all on him—
all our iniquity, punishment, and guilt.
He heaped the ugliest part of us
onto his amazing beauty.
**With every puncture, each whip stroke,
at every cry of anguish
and innumerable flinch of pain,
in every wound and bruise,
he was healing the brokenness
of my sinful soul.**

**Words of Assurance (Hebrews 10)**

We are guilty, but God is faithful.
In this faithfulness, God chose to remember
our lawlessness no longer.
Through Christ, our sins—yours and mine—
are not only forgiven, they are forgotten.
Christ blotted out the ledger book with his love.

**Hymn** - **Beneath the Cross of Jesus - 135 VU**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Scripture Reading**

**Peter’s Monologue**

**Hymn - Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross - 142 VU**

**Scripture Reading**

**Mary’s Monologue**

**Hymn - Were You There - 144 VU**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

This Good Friday we join our voices

to the words of Jesus on the cross,

and the cry of all who are abandoned,

“My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Before we race in quickly

with the triumphant answer,

or the desire to set things right,

we need to stand alongside

this ancient cry of dereliction.

So today we place ourselves

with all those who cry out

for food and justice, for work and healing,

for hope and love, for faith and for meaning:

we hear their pain and the pain of Jesus Christ.

And because we know

that in two days we will be back

celebrating and singing,

do not let us deny the suffering

of Christ and of this world.

Today we cry out about:

*(world and local situations may be named here)*

O God, our God, we cry out to You

do not forsake us. **Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Final Scripture Reading**

**Blessing and Commissioning**

We have seen our Saviour in chains.
We have seen him crucified.
We have heard his cries
and witnessed his suffering and death.
It is finished.
Go from this solemn service remembering
all that Christ did for you.

Christ Candle is Extinguished