

Grace Mennonite Church: Good Friday April 18th, 2025

Prelude Annie Schulz

Hymn *What wondrous love is this* HWB #530, v.1

Call to Worship Waldo Pauls

Leader: From the busy-ness of our lives
we have come here on a day that is different.

People: In the midst of the world
which holds the promise of spring and new life,
we have come to share a story of betrayal
and execution.

Leader: Come and hear the tale, come and hear the tragedy,
come and embrace the darkness.

Prayer

People: God of Light, God of Shadow,
in our time together today, keep us aware
of your presence in the darkness,
help us to see meaning in this terrible story,
and keep the fire of hope alive in our hearts.

Leader: This we pray in the name of the man from Nazareth,
the one who lived with a great Passion for your Way,
the one whose death is night,
the one who taught his friends to pray saying:

All: *Our Father, which art in heaven...*

Song *Gone is the Light*

Into the darkness we must go; gone, gone is the light.

Into the darkness we must go; gone, gone is the light.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 53:3-6 Anita Stephen

Hymn *Were you there* HWB #257, vv.1,2,3

Readers Theatre "Those Who Pass By"

First Reading – John 19:13b-16

Period of Silence

Second Reading – John 19:17-22

Hymn *My Song is Love Unknown* HWB #235, vv.1,4,7

Third Reading – Mark 15:29-32a

Period of Silence

Fourth Reading – Luke 23:39-43

Song *Jesus remember me when you enter your Kingdom.*
Jesus remember me when your Kingdom comes.

Fifth Reading – Mark 15:34-37, 39

Period of Silence

Hymn *O sacred Head, now wounded* HWB #252 vv.1,3,4

Meditation

Darrell Winger

Small Group Song

Behold the Lamb

Communion Service

Pastor Darrell Winger

Good Friday Communion Litany

Even in the midst of darkness, we hear the comforting voice of the Spirit welcoming us to this table; a table of forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation. A place that embraces those who have questions, who feel the light is gone, and are experiencing the pain of brokenness. The Lord Jesus Christ stretched out his arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of his saving embrace.

Prayer

Leader: O Tree of Calvary,

People: send your roots deep down into our hearts.

Leader: Gather together the soil of our hearts,

People: the sands of our fickleness, the mud of our desires.

Leader: Bind them all together, O Tree of Calvary,

All: interlace them with your strong roots,

entwine them with the network of your love. Amen.

Hymn: Eat This Bread (back page)

Silence

We Confess Our Faith and Need of God's Forgiveness

Leader: Let us confess our faith together.

All: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

*who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.*

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

*to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.*

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Leader: Trusting in God's grace,
let us confess our need of God's forgiveness.

All: *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.*

Leader: Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation,
the old life has gone; a new life has begun.
In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven, loved, and free.

Pastoral Prayer

Christ Jesus you hung upon a cross and died for us
so that we might live for you.

Your body was broken and your blood shed
so that we might be healed and made whole.

You were faithful unto death
so that we might be faithful unto life.

Your last command was that we might love one another:

one family together from every tribe and nation,

a new creation united through your sacrifice,
redeemed by your blood,

healed by your love,

united by your covenant of peace.

In your death may we find life.

Send now your Spirit upon us and these elements, so that the
bread we break and the cup we share might be the communion
of the body and blood of Christ.

Amen.

Hymn: Eat This Bread (back page)

Silence

Words of Institution

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

We welcome you to participate in the communion service this morning. As the bread is served, and then the cup, please wait until everyone is served and then we will participate together in eating the bread, then drinking the cup. If you prefer not to participate in communion, that is fine; simply pass the tray along.

Benediction

Sending Hymn *What wondrous love is this* HWB #530, v.3

*Please join us for Coffee Time and Hot Cross Buns
in the Church Hall after the service.*

Eat this bread 471

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun-gry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." The chords are: G, C, Am, D, Bm, Em, D sus, D, G, D, Em, Bm, C, D, G.