

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Thus Spake Jesus (*M.Head*) I Believe
In Christ (*J.Longhurst arr.E. Goates*) Wesley Bells, violin

INTRODUCTION TO WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion*

INTROIT Requiem aeternam I (*E.Daley*)
Margaret Heney, Soprano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Our journey through Lent and to the cross
is not a lonesome pilgrimage.
God's faithfulness accompanies us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

***HYMN** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (*VU 149*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we come before you today, sad and
humbled, standing at the foot of the cross. Our
hearts are breaking, just like those few friends of
Jesus who stayed. We hold up to you our broken
and hurting world. We have witnessed so much
anger and frustration, hatred and cruelty, and
senseless actions. Our hearts break for the rising fear
and grief that surrounds us. Like the women at the
foot of the cross who watched their hopes and
dreams fade away in death, we too wonder, 'what's
next?' Remind us, God of compassion, that this is not
the end. We need your love and strength now, as we
grieve our way through chaos and change; through
warring actions...through climate change; as we
grieve our way through racial injustice and political

division. May we lay our burdens down at the foot of
the cross? (*a time of reflection...*) **Turn anguish into
hope, O God—free us from our regrets, from what we
have left undone, ungiven, and unshared. Amen.**
(*adapted M.Parsons, Munn's U.C., Oakville, Ont.*)

WORDS OF GRACE

God walks with us in every journey.
Thanks be to God.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE John 18: 12-27 Lisa Kyriakides
(Peter's denial and the high priest)

SUNG RESPONSE Stay With Me (*Taize*) *VU 950*
**Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

First candle is extinguished.

ANTHEM My Song is Love Unknown (*K.Marrolli*)
with Wesley Bells, violin

SCRIPTURE John 18:28-40 (Jesus before Pilate)
Brian Walter

SUNG RESPONSE Stay With Me (*Taize*) *VU 950*
**Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

Second candle is extinguished.

SCRIPTURE John 19:1-6a (Jesus is sentenced to death)
Jackie Catto

SUNG RESPONSE Stay With Me (*Taize*) *VU 950*
**Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

Third candle is extinguished.

SCRIPTURE John 19:16b-25a (Jesus is crucified)
Charles Truax

Fourth candle is extinguished

HYMN Beneath the Cross of Jesus (*VU 135*)

SCRIPTURE John 19:25b-30 (The death of Jesus)
Rev. Andy

SUNG RESPONSE Stay With Me (*Taize*) *VU 950*
**Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

Fifth candle is extinguished.

ANTHEM No Night There (*Dan Forrest*)
with Wesley Bells, violin

SCRIPTURE John 19:31-42 (The burial of Jesus)
Rev. Lorraine

SUNG RESPONSE Stay With Me (*Taize*) *VU 950*
**Stay with me, remain here with me,
watch and pray, watch and pray.**

Sixth candle is extinguished.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER
Tolling Bell: Lisa Kyriakides

HYMN What Wondrous Love Is This (*VU 147*)

EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Today is the darkest day of the year.

Today we remember the power of these things which block God's light.

**Today we remember them all;
broken promises, fear, and lack of trust;
our inability to let go, and our unwavering
commitment. Today we experience the darkness
of Christ's death and the separation between God
and humanity, portrayed in that death.**

It is finished. The light of the world has gone out.

The Christ candle is extinguished.

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*As you depart the sanctuary, you are invited to bring your
stone to the front of the sanctuary and leave it at the foot
of the cross...offer a prayer/a blessing/silence.*



Please join us ...

Easter Sunday—April 20—11 am

Trinity Sanctuary

Jesus' Death in the Gospel of John

Today we are hearing the gospel account of Jesus' passion and death in the Gospel of John, written at a time when the early Christian community, which was Jewish, was distinguishing itself from the rest of the Jewish community. John's gospel refers to the established Jewish community with the blanket term 'the Jews' and paints them in negative terms. These have been interpreted as anti-Jewish and used to justify antisemitism, including today's traditional readings.

(A) strict distinction between anti-Jewish and antisemitism is difficult to make... "Anti-Judaism"...is the negative stereotyping of Jews and Jewish beliefs. It is still current in Christian thinking and teaching found in many approaches to the New Testament. It includes the idea of supersessionism, which says that the Jews were rejected by God and replaced by the church. It singles out some Jewish leaders as the killers of Jesus.

(Bearing Faithful Witness, p.75)

We have a responsibility to be aware of anti-Jewish tendencies in our worship and our thinking so that we don't contribute to prejudices, biases, and violence against our Jewish neighbours.

We invite you to worship this sacred day, recognizing that narratives accusing the Jewish people of killing Jesus have harmed, and continue to harm relationships with Jewish neighbours and hide Jesus' own Jewishness.

The language of the gospel readings has been changed to reflect the accuracy of references to people and place.



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

AURORA UNITED CHURCH

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney

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GOOD FRIDAY

April 18, 2025

Trinity Chapel

11:00 AM

'Behold the Lamb of God.'
(Jn 1:29)