

Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge of the United Church
At Home Worship
April 10, 2020 Good Friday
Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan

We gratefully acknowledge that we are on the ancient and traditional lands of The Blackfoot Nation, the people of the Treaty 7, and of Metis Region 3. May we cherish and care for the land and the people, as those who came before us did.

Your Worship Space

As you worship at home, try to create a space for that. It could be as simple as lighting a candle (either flame or battery); or placing a small cross or a symbol that has meaning for you in front of you. If you are alone, perhaps start a journal, as you reflect on the worship experience. Or, perhaps call a friend and share this time with them over the phone. If you are with one or two others, enjoy the conversation that arises...as you practise safe distancing. ☺

Opening Prayer

O God our journey continues. We know that any day can bring both sadness and hope. Draw us nearer to each other, as you draw us nearer to you, so that together we may have strength and courage for the way. We pray this as followers of Jesus. Amen.

An adaptation of John 18:1-10:42

From the Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFUSION Lent-Easter 2020

The day started in silence. Jesus took the disciples to a garden he knew, a quiet place where they could sit and pray and wait for what was about to happen. Judas knew the garden too, and he came there with the soldiers, carrying lanterns and torches and weapons like they were going into battle. Jesus spoke.

“Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus of Nazareth.”

“I am he,” Jesus said. And the soldiers fell to the ground.

“Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus of Nazareth.”

“I told you that I am he. So, if you are looking just for me, let my disciples go free.”

Peter took out a sword and went after one of the people with the soldiers. But Jesus said, “Put your sword away. It is time for me to drink the cup that God has given me.”

The soldiers took Jesus to the high priest, and Peter and the disciples followed him, waiting outside the gate. Someone asked Peter, “Are you one of Jesus’ disciples?”

But Peter quickly answered, “I am not,” and drew nearer to the charcoal fire the police had built outside the gate. For some reason he felt very cold.

A police officer asked Peter again if he was Jesus’ disciple. And again he answered, “I am not.”

Finally a slave girl asked, “Didn’t I see you in the garden with Jesus this very night?”

For the third time, Peter said “No.” And a rooster crowed.

Meanwhile, inside the gate, the high priest asked Jesus about his teaching. Jesus answered, “I have said nothing in secret. Why are you asking me?”

The police slapped Jesus for being rude to the high priest. Jesus said, "Did I say something wrong? Why are you hitting me?"

They took Jesus to see Pilate, who asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Are you the one asking this? Or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate said, "I'm not a Jew! But your fellow Jews handed you over to me. What have you done wrong?"

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world."

"So you are a king?"

"You say that I am the king. But I say that I testify to the truth, and everybody who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Pilate asked Jesus, "What is the truth?" But Jesus did not answer him. He had said all there was to say.

Pilate said to the crowd, "You have a custom that I can release a prisoner at this time of the year. Shall I release this King of the Jews?"

But the crowd said, "No! Release Barabbas, the bandit."

Pilate did not let Jesus go free. Instead he told his soldiers to whip Jesus. The soldiers dressed him up in a ridiculous costume, a purple robe and a crown made of thorns, making fun of him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" while they hit him in the face.

Pilate went out to the crowds who cried, "Crucify him!"

Pilate said, "Crucify him yourselves; I find no case against him."

The crowd said, "He has broken our law because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Pilate was afraid. He asked Jesus, "Where are you from? Why will you not speak to me? Don't you know I have the power to release you or to have you killed?"

He brought Jesus out to the crowds and said, "Here is your king!"

But the crowds said, "We have no king but the emperor. Crucify him!"

So they crucified Jesus on a hill, under a sign which read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews," dividing his clothing among the soldiers.

Jesus looked down from the cross and saw his mother Mary and the disciple he loved. He said to them, "From now on, you must be mother and son to one another." And so it was.

Jesus said he was thirsty. But they gave him only sour wine. Then Jesus said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.



A moment of silent reflection...

The Epilogue

Written by Roddy Hamilton, Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFUSION Lent-Easter 2020

So here we are, standing, standing where we never thought we could, at the foot of death,
crushed under the fickleness of humanity.
The heart of heaven has stopped.

All that hope, the dreams of peace, the promises of justice you so burned with, snuffed out, with
a few nails and a cross beam.

O Jesus, what do we do now?
What is there left to do?

Silence

It is a cold place where the breath of heaven stops. It is a frightening place. It is a lonely place.

This is what the world does, to love, and then turns its back, rubbing with its hands, finished with
its final enemy.

O Jesus, what do we do now?
What is there left to do?

Silence

The Saviour had died, and the future can seem lost, out of our grasp.
Light is swamped.

O Jesus, what do we do now?
What is there left to do?

Silence

What do we do now?
We wait beyond eternity...
We hope beyond every hope we've ever had....
We trust beyond belief...
In a God who cannot leave it here.

*Take a moment in silent reflection; perhaps journal or draw, before you move into the rest of
your day. Remember, God is with us. Amen.*

