

---

# St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 [www.sjruc.ca](http://www.sjruc.ca)

---

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



*The safeguarding of Jesus, Armenian Church, Ukraine  
Photo by André Luís Alves. Lviv. March 4. 2022*

---

**April 15, 2022 – Good Friday**  
**Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling**

---

**Welcome!**

*Welcome to worship!*

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE**

**VU: Voices United**

**MV: More Voices**

*We acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract,  
traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and  
Haudenosaunee peoples.*

Thank you to those joining for today's service.

As we gather, there are two announcements.

There will be no formal offering today, and you're welcome  
to leave your offerings in the plates in the hallway.

At the conclusion of the service, we will leave the Sanctuary  
together in silence. Please respect distancing as you do so.

Prelude

Processional Hymn

**Were You There v1-4**

VU 144

**1 *Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

***Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

***Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
tremble, tremble.***

***Were you there when they crucified my Lord?***

**2 *Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?***

***Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?***

***Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
tremble, tremble.***

***Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?***

**3 *Were you there when the sun refused to shine?***

***Were you there when the sun refused to shine?***

***Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
tremble, tremble.***

***Were you there when the sun refused to shine?***

**4 *Were you there when they pierced him in the side?***

***Were you there when they pierced him in the side?***

***Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
tremble, tremble.***

***Were you there when they pierced him in the side?***

## Call to Worship and Opening Prayer

One: What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow,  
void of sorrow? Do we dream of peace?  
Or more time spent regretting decisions of our  
yesterdays, mistakes we made?  
Sometimes we get what we get,  
life disappoints us and yet,  
God is still here, in despair and destruction,  
God is still here, and somehow,  
this faith is good enough.

As we gather, we pray these words from Psalm 22

**Holy One, Trusted Guide of our ancestors,  
at times we feel forsaken.**

**You took us from the womb and laid us in the  
safety of loving arms, and yet life has thrown us  
again and again into the loss of connection.**

**Gardens of joy grow silent with grief. Our hearts  
break as we watch the suffering of the world.**

**For death continues to be the way we solve our  
differences. Have mercy upon us. Be with us,  
as we mourn what cannot be. Amen.**

## Reflection

## Reading

One: Friends imagine that just last night on Maundy  
Thursday, we gathered with Jesus in the Upper  
Room. There is only one other place in the Gospels  
where the Greek word used to describe the Upper  
Room was also repeated—the place, the room where  
Jesus was born. Two places where the dark birthed  
something new... the dark womb and the dark tomb.  
Tonight we continue the story that began last night in  
a tradition of “tenebrae” or “darkness,” descending  
with Jesus into the depths of our own stories of grief,  
disappointment, and betrayal.

## Hymn

### **My Song is Love Unknown**

VU143

**1 My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me,  
love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.**

**O who am I that for my sake  
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die?**

**2 He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow,  
but people scorned, and none the longed-for Christ  
would know.**

**But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,  
who at my need his life did spend!**

**3 Sometimes they strew his way,  
and his sweet praises sing,  
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.  
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,  
and for his death they thirst and cry.**

**4 Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine;  
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend.**

#### **A TENEBRAE**

**("Shadow" or "Darkness")**

*John 18:12–19:42)*

#### Reading

One: So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the authorities seized Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the religious authorities that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

*...the first candle is extinguished...*

One: Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman who guarded the gate said to Peter, "Are not you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them,

standing and warming himself. They said to him, "Are not you also one of his disciples?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed.

### *Silence*

One: The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all people come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas.

*...the second candle is extinguished...*

Anthem

### **God So Loved the World**

(Stainer)

*God so loved the world  
that he gave his only begotten Son,  
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life.*

*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the  
world, but that the world, through him, might be saved.*

One: Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The authorities said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death."

This was to fulfill the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die.

*...the third candle is extinguished...*

One: Pilate entered the headquarters again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the authorities; but my kingship is not from the world." Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

*Silence*

One: After Pilate had said this, he went to the authorities again, and told them, "I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?" They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

*...the fourth candle is extinguished...*

One: So Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again, and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in

him.” The religious authorities answered him, “We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God.” When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above...”

*...the fifth candle is extinguished...*

One: Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the authorities cried out, “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.” When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gab’-ba-tha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said, “Behold your King!” They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” They handed him over to them to be crucified.

### *Silence*

One: So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Gol’-go-tha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. They then said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

- 1** *The Love that clothes itself in light,  
stands naked now, despised, betrayed,  
receiving blows to face and head  
from hands that Love itself has made.*
- 2** *The Love that lifts the stars and sun,  
collapses, spent, beneath the cross;  
the Love that fills the universe,  
goes on to death and total loss.*
- 3** *Love, helpless, comes to Calvary,  
rejected, scorned and crucified;  
Love hangs in shame, and dies alone;  
but Love abased, is glorified.*
- 4** *Extinguished with the sun at noon,  
Love's light transcends all history;  
Love, wrapped in linen, Love entombed,  
still wraps all heaven in mystery.*
- 5** *Though Love is lost, Love finds us here;  
though Love is absent, Love remains;  
where Love is finished, Love begins;  
where Love is dead, Love lives and reigns!*

One: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the scripture, "They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

*...the sixth candle is extinguished...*

*Silence*

One: So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple,



“Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Solo – Colin Watts **Vergin, tutto armor**

(F. Durante)

English translations – James P. Dunn

*Virgin, all made of love,  
mother of goodness,  
pious mother—hark, sweet Mary,  
the sinner’s voice.*

*May his cry move you,  
may to you come his laments,  
his sorrow, his sad words;  
may you feel pity in your heart.*

*Oh, mother of goodness,  
all made of love.*

One: After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), “I thirst.” A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished”; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

*...the Christ candle is extinguished...*

One: Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the sabbath (for that sabbath was a holy day), the authorities asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the scripture might be fulfilled, “Not a bone of him shall be broken.” And again another scripture says, “They shall look on him whom they have pierced.”

## *Silence*

One: After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the authorities, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as was the burial custom. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

## *Silence*

Commissioning *from "Good Enough" by Kate Bowler & Jessica Richie*

One: Blessed are you, friend, sitting among the shards of what could have been. It is broken now, that dream you loved, and it has spilled out all over the ground.

Blessed are you, dear one, letting your eyes look around and remember all the hope your dream once contained. All the love. All the beauty.

Blessed are you, telling your tears they can flow.  
Telling your anger it can speak.

Blessed are you when mourning is the holy work of the moment, for it speaks of what is real.

Blessed are you, letting this loss speak all its terrible truth to your soul.

Blessed are we who mourn, saying let us remain in grief's cold winter for as long as it takes, that mourning might be to our hearts the gentlest springtime. Let the thaw come slowly, so we can bear the pain of it and find comfort at each release. Amen.

**5** *Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble,  
tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

*When you feel comfortable doing so,  
please leave the Sanctuary quietly  
while maintaining distance.*

April 17, Easter Sunday, 7:30am and 10:30am

We'll share in two services to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. First, we will gather on the labyrinth at 7:30am to share in the joy of Easter communion with the light of a new day!

And then at 10:30am we will continue our Easter celebration indoors. For the 10:30am service, masks, registration, distancing and vaccination will be required.



*During Lent, our Children in Sunday School have been learning about Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Praying in the Garden, Good Friday and Jesus' Burial).*

*We thank Mearle Morton and Jan Omand for creating these amazing tableaus.*