

CHARLESWOOD MENNONITE CHURCH

April 10, 2020

Good Friday

Worship Leader: Julia Thiessen

Speaker: Karen Schellenberg

You are invited to light a candle and place it on the table as you participate in the service. Also, please have a nail ready for each person to hold during the sermon and the Confession.

Entering Worship

Call to Worship – based on Psalm 22 – Read antiphonally with your household

We are poured out like water.

Our hearts are wax, melted inside our breasts.

We have been laid in the dust of death.

But God does not despise the affliction of the afflicted.

God's face is not hidden.

God hears our cries and draws near.

Those who seek God will praise the Lord!

All who go down to the dust will bow before the Lord!

All shall love and serve the Lord, and we among them!

HWB 530 *What Wondrous Love is This*

[CTL + CLICK TO PLAY](#)

Prayer of Invocation – Read out loud; take your time

God, you made a new covenant with us through Jesus,

Welcoming us even while we were in sin.

Because of your mercy, we approach you with boldness,

Searching for you in this darkest and holiest of weeks.

We hear the story of your trial and execution 2000 years ago,

Confident that this is *our* story for this day.

We look forward to the day of resurrection,

Trembling in anticipation of Good News.

Hear us, welcome us, have mercy on us,

O God our Redeemer and Sustainer. Amen.

Entering the Passion Story

Family Feature (Video): Stations of the Cross Project! All are invited to participate!
[CTL + CLICK TO PLAY](#)

Scripture Reading 1: John 19:16b-30 (printed below) – feel free to read out loud or silently

Meditative Song – “Jesus, Remember Me” – Feel free to just listen, or sing along
[LINK: Jesus, Remember Me](#) lyrics:

“Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom.”

Responsive Prayer – Read antiphonally with your household
(adapted from the prayer by Rev Gord on his blog, [Worship Offerings](#))

God of life, God of beginnings and endings,
today we pause to remember the power of death.

**Today we tell the story of what happens
when someone angers those in power.**

Today we tell a story that happened long ago in a land far away.

Today we tell a story that continues to happen today in places close at hand.

As we remember the story today help us to see its truth;
remind us of those who are found legally guilty
for doing and saying the right things.

**As we tell of the friends who are conspicuously absent from the cross,
remind us how easily we slip away
when the struggle for justice becomes dangerous or challenging.**

As we look at the cross,
remind us of the power of empire in any age,
and remind us of our duty as people of faith to proclaim a different empire,
a different kingdom, a new way of living together.

**As we hear the agonized words “It is finished”
remind us of all the things that are stopped before they come to fruition,
of the hopes crushed,
of the promises unfulfilled...**

God of life and death, beginnings and endings,
today we pause to remember the power of those in charge to run the world.

Today we remember the many people near and far who are broken by that power:

those who live in places where peace is just a word,
those who are pushed to the margins
because of their race, their gender, their bank balance,
their marital status, their orientation;

**those who live with nothing so that others may live with abundance
those who choose to challenge the injustices in their world**

and are crushed beneath the feet of those in charge

...time of silent prayer...

*God, even as we offer our mourning to you,
we remember that day follows night,
hope replaces despair,
and life will conquer death.*

Entering the Mystery of Christ's Death

Scripture Reading 1: John 19:16b-30 (printed below) – feel free to read out loud or silently

Scripture Reading 2: Isaiah 52:12-53:13 (printed below) – feel free to read out loud or silently

The Ritual of Confession

One way of entering into the mystery of Good Friday is through ritual. Ritual almost always involves tangible objects. Today, we invite you to hold a nail in your hands as you listen to the sermon, and participate in the prayer of confession that follows. Notice the head of the nail where a hammer strikes, be aware of the rigidity of the nail, experience (gently) the sharp tip of the nail. We invite you to be mindful that it was a nail like the one you are holding that pierced Jesus' hands and feet. May a simple nail help us to experience more fully Christ's suffering and death.

Sermon: "Mystery, Nails, and Love"

AND Ritual of Confession

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Abiding in the Mystery

Meditative Song – "Stay with me" – Feel free to just listen, or sing along

[LINK: STAY WITH ME](#) lyrics:

"Stay with me, remain here with me. Watch and pray, watch and pray."

Benediction

Blessed is the one who poured himself out for us.

Blessed is the one laid in the tomb.

Blessed are we, who wait in darkness,

For the Lord is surely waiting with us. Amen.

John 19:16b-30 (NRSV)

So they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew^[d] is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth,^[e] the King of the Jews.” ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew,^[f] in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” ²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

“They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”

²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 (NRSV)

See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up,
and shall be very high.

¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him^[a]
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵so he shall startle^[b] many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

¹Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

²For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering^[c] and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces^[d]
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

⁹They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb^[e] with the rich,^[f]
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.^[g]
When you make his life an offering for sin,^[h]
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;
through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.

¹¹ Out of his anguish he shall see light;^[i]
he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.
The righteous one,^[j] my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.