

Come to Gethsemane



Good Friday Service
Friday, April 14, 2017 at 11 am

Forest Hill United Church
an affirming congregation

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship:

One: We come to the garden now.
All: **We come to the garden with Jesus.**
One: We come to the garden to pray.
All: **We come to the garden to find comfort.**
One: We come with fear.
All: **We come to find rest.**
One: We come to find guidance.
All: **We come to be with friends.**
One: Why do *you* come to the garden today?
What is it that *you* are needing?

Pause.

One: Know that as you enter this time,
you enter a safe time.
It is a time where expressions are alright -
whether they be tears
or yawns, like those of Jesus disciples.
Just enter in – completely and honestly.

Opening Hymn: #133 VU Go to Dark Gethsemane

Welcoming the Darkness

Scripture: Matthew 26:36-46 *Jesus Prays in the Garden*

Special Music: Gethsemane by Rice/Webber

Reflection: “You Are Not Alone”

Hymn of Reflection: #182 VU Stay with Us

Scripture: Mark 14:43-46, 15:1-15 *Jesus is Arrested & Tried*

Hymn of Comfort: #278 VU In the Quiet Curve of Evening

Scripture: Luke 23:33-46 *Jesus is Crucified*

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

Moment of Silence

The Prayer that Jesus Taught: *(Spoken Together)*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

One: O God, this is a trying moment to say the least.
Jesus came into our lives and we loved him deeply.
Through him, in our own ways and in our own time,
we changed.
**All: His teachings continued to nudge us to grow,
like the sun coaxes the first flowers of spring
out of the safe, comfortable ground.**
One: But now we experience the cruel reality of death -
of losing a loved one, a mentor, a visionary of the world.
And, along with the finality of death,
we must take in the circumstances.

His was a death that didn't come easy in the night.

Instead, he suffered physical pain and emotional anguish.
And we watched.

**All: As his friends, we stood witness to the bitter end.
And here we are faced with tears so plentiful
they could water a garden.**

One: We know that you are ever-present but, in our deep grief,
we are stumbling blindly toward you,
struggling to find our way.

**All: How can we find hope with all this darkness?
How can we even ask for such a thing?**

One: Yet, we do.

**All: We reach out and hope to touch even the hem
of your great mystery, a small piece of your presence.
In this awful day, may we find what we need
to know that we are not alone.**

One: Like discovering a tiny pebble in the soil,
may we find even the smallest assurance
that we will be in brighter places again some day
and we will once again fully celebrate life.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: #703 VU In the Bulb There Is a Flower

This morning's worship was led by **Rev. Ali Anningson & Alex Good.**

Join us for the rest of the story on Sunday . . .

At 6:30 am: Join us for our "Early One Morning..." **Easter Sunrise Service.** Meet at the Experimental Farm, Lincoln Road. (Take the first entrance on your right, directly before the main entrance to the Potato Research Facility.) Bring a dish to share at the potluck breakfast afterwards at the Church.

At 10am: During our **Easter Sunday Service**, we will celebrate "The Rainbow After the Storm" with reflection, music and communion.