

Forest Hill United Church
'open doors, open hearts, open minds'



Good Friday
April 7, 2023 11 a.m.

WELCOME to worship!

Gathering

** Please rise in spirit or in body as you are able

Prelude: There is a Green Hill Far Away VU 152

Welcome, Announcements & Acknowledgement:

Land Acknowledgement

At Forest Hill United Church, we acknowledge that our church is built on ancestral, traditional and unceded Wolastoqiyik (wolas-to-qiyik) land.

Declaration of a Safe Place

Forest Hill United Church is a safe place for people to gather, regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, family status, sexual orientation and gender identity.

Call to Worship:

Today the carpenter's hands are nailed to a cross.

Today the Holy One of God is crowned with thorns and wears the purple robe of mockery.

Today Christ falls victim to the powers of the world.

Today, imprisoned a tree, Christ sets us free. Today is God's Friday, We come in worship.

Gathering Prayer: (All)

**Holy God, Lover of us all,
we humble ourselves in your presence now,
knowing that you changed the world on this day.**

**Through the story of Jesus' betrayal and death,
you invite us to turn from despair to hope,
from brokenness to wholeness,
from death to life.**

**We are humbled by the deep love of Jesus,
which led him to give himself over to powers that stand
against you and against us on this awesome, awful day.
Be with us as we ponder, pray and worship. Amen.**

Hymn When I Survey the Wondrous Cross VU 149

Scripture: John 18: 1-11
Hymn Verse O God, Why Are You Silent, v.1. MV 73
O God, why are you silent?
I cannot hear your voice.
The proud and strong and violent
all claim you and rejoice.

Scripture: John 18: 12-24
Hymn Verse O God, why are you silent?
I cannot hear your voice.
The proud and strong and violent
all claim you and rejoice.

Scripture: John 18:28 - 19:16
Hymn Verse O God, why are you silent?
I cannot hear your voice.
The proud and strong and violent
all claim you and rejoice.

Scripture: John 19: 17-30

Prayer of Confession

We are hard on Judas, but we too are guilty of betrayal.

Is it I, Lord?

Like the disciples, we often listen to Jesus' words but don't really hear what he is saying.

Is it I, Lord?

Like the disciples, we follow him, but sometimes at a distance.

Is it I, Lord?

Like the disciples, when Jesus asks us to spend time with him, we fall asleep.

Is it I, Lord?

Like the disciples, we turn away from suffering and sorrow, and hide away in fear.

Is it I, Lord?

Like the disciples, we despair when life doesn't turn out as we expect, and we lose our faith and hope.

Is it I, Lord?

[Silent Reflection]

Hymn Beneath the Cross of Jesus VU 135

Meditation

Hymn O Sacred Head VU 145

Prayer that Jesus Taught: Adaptation by Jim Cotter

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The happening of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by people of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and for ever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn Were You There VU 144

After the Postlude, you are invited to sit and meditate and then when you wish, in silence, please leave the Sanctuary.

Postlude O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile VU 136

OFFICE

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Worship Leader – Rev. Ian Manson

Pastoral Care – Rev. Ian Manson 506-333-8318 and

Diane Robinson 506-459-8779

Usher – Margie Roxborough

Music – Alex Good, Brian Cassidy and Libby Cassidy

Administrative Assistant - Kris Yarych

Tuesday & Thursday 8:45 to 11:45 a.m.

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