

**Good Friday** - April 18, 2025

**Congregational responses are in bold.** (\*) Please stand, as you are able

**We Gather As God's People**

**Prelude...** (*this is an opportunity for us to appreciate the gift of music and prepare our hearts for worship*)

**Words of Welcome**

**Preparation for Worship** (*We sit in silence; reflecting on the arrest of Jesus our friend and wondering what the future will hold...*)

**Scripture:** Psalm 22:19–24

**\*Hymn:** Beneath the Cross of Jesus

**VU#135**

**Call to Worship:**

One: In the shadow of our suffering

**All: is the suffering of Jesus.**

One: In the shadow of our weakness

**All: is the vulnerability of the Christ.**

One: In the shadow of our pain

**All: is the God who cried out.**

One: We are never rejected,

**All: we are never left alone.**

**Prayer of Approach**

**\*Hymn:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**VU#149**

**Presider:** What waits within our hidden places?

Sometimes, Jesus the Christ, we never fully know.

We dread to search our souls,

in case we cannot bear

to touch the wounds which lie there,

and the betrayals of our hopes,

or the grieving we cannot bring ourselves to enter.

**Within the hidden places we will find our own tears.**

## The Betrayal

**Scripture:** John 18:1-11

**Presider:**

What sounds are hidden in the depths of life?

We hear the weeping of the poor in the distance  
and the struggles of desperation and death.

In our hearts we move towards the lost and rejected,  
**and hear their sighs of longing and loneliness.**

**In the depths of life we will find injustice.**

**Scripture:** John 18:12-27

**Anthem:** Man of Sorrows, What a Name

**Presider:** Starkly standing on the road ahead

are the Jerusalems of our day:

the voices of religion when it betrays its God  
and leads the people into judgments of others;  
violence against those who are different

and entrenched positions of privilege;

the sounds of the power of money,

and of greed beyond description;

the exploitation of the powerless

and temptations to endless consumption;

the shrieks of pain and fear in war and violence,

amid the threatening sounds of military action

pretending to be the agents of peace.

**In the places of power we will find violence:**

**Scripture:** John 18:28-19:16

**\*Hymn:** Were You There?

**VU#144**

**Scripture:** John 19:16b-30

**Presider:** As we find the courage to enter the darkness,  
the cross rises before us.

*silence*

**We may dare to look at the cross of human deadliness.  
Jesus the Christ has moved into all human life.  
We are never, ever, left alone.**

### **The Cherishing**

**Scripture:** John 19:31-42

**Anthem:** Gethsemane Hymn

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lords Prayer**

**Litany of Commitment**

### **The Committal**

There is no part of life which Jesus has not visited.  
There is no death untasted by the Christ.

**Thanks be to you, O Christ.**

In faith, we may leave here all that is deathly in our lives,  
believing that it will be absorbed into the Body of Christ  
which waits with arms stretched wide  
to gather in all our reality for healing, forgiveness, and renewal.

**Thanks be to you, O Christ.**

*silence*

**Scripture Music:** The Crucifixion

**Samuel Barber**