

St. James United Church

March 30, 2018/Good Friday

Seven Words from the Cross

Minister:	Rev. Brian Colbourne
Minister of Visitation:	Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education:	Susan Sheppard, DLM
Organist:	Paul Rodermond
Choir:	Senior
Choir Director:	Emma House
Guest Singer:	Hannah O'Donnell

St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation. All are welcome.

Thank you for attending this special Good Friday service.

Thank you in advance to all who participate in any way. A free will offering will go to assist *Bridges to Hope*. You may leave your offering in the tray at the entrance to the Sanctuary. This service requires something extra from us in terms of time. However, if you cannot remain for the entire service, we would request, if possible, that you leave during the singing of a hymn.

May you be blessed in this time of worship!

Musical Prelude Lighting the Candles Welcome



Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

All: Jesus' love refused compromise with the powerful.

One: Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

All: The love of Jesus took the tough but faithful road.

One: Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

All: The love of Jesus struggled with the easy way out.

One: Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

All: The love of Jesus endured the rejection of his friends.

One: It is the love of Jesus that calls us here.

Opening Prayer: (together) Now we open ourselves to the story of the Crucified and Risen One. In this story that is like no other, may our hearts and spirits connect with divine Presence. And as we open ourselves to this story, may we open ourselves to our own as well. May we find in our hearts and spirits Your divine Presence. We pray in the name of the Crucified and Risen One. Amen.

Hymn: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

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Prayer of Confession: (together) Like the disciples, we sometimes find a reason to avoid getting involved. Like the religious leaders in the gospel story, we are suspicious of those who force us to abandon the status quo and consider fresh directions. Like

Pilate, we are among those who know the faithful way, but are afraid of the consequences of following that way. Like the soldiers, we really don't want to be involved in the issues, and we feel it isn't our concern. Forgive us and help us to do right.

Assurance of Pardon:

One: All God asks of us is a humble spirit;

All: God accepts a contrite heart.

One: God has delivered us from death, our eyes from tears, our feet from stumbling.

All: We walk with God in the land of the living, a forgiven and redeemed people.

The Scriptures Read and Proclaimed
The Seven Last Words of Christ

The First Word

Scripture: Luke 23:33-34

Meditation: The Very Rev. Dr. Marion Pardy

Extinguishing the First Candle and Time of Silence

Choir: *In the Shadow of the Tree* by Patrick Liebergen

The Second Word

Scripture: Luke 23:39-43

Meditation: Rev. Scott Parsons

Extinguishing the Second Candle and Time of Silence

Hymn: *Jesus, Remember Me* 148

The Third Word

Scripture: John 19:25-27

Meditation: Rev. Lisa Potter

Extinguishing the Third Candle and Time of Silence

Hymn: *My Song Is Love Unknown* 143

The Fourth Word

Scripture: Mark 15:33-34

Meditation: Katie Vardy

Extinguishing the Fourth Candle and Time of Silence

Musical Selection: Hannah O'Donnell, Paul Rodermond

The Fifth Word

Scripture: John 19:28
Meditation: Rev. William Bartlett

Extinguishing the Fifth Candle and Time of Silence

Hymn: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

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The Sixth Word

Scripture: John 19:29-30
Meditation: Rebecca Pike

Extinguishing the Sixth Candle and Time of Silence

Choir: *Were You There?*

The Seventh Word

Scripture: Luke 23:46
Meditation: Rev. David Guzzwell

Extinguishing the Seventh Candle and Time of Silence

Hymn: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

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Dismissal: Go now remembering the man of sorrows.
Go now seeing the suffering world.
Go now loving all of God's creation.
Go now in peace.

At the end of the Service, the congregation may leave in silence.