



Greenwood United Church, Northminster United Church, St. James United Church
An Affirming Ministry
Centre for Faith, Arts & Multiculturalism
Shared Good Friday Worship
April 18, 2025

221 Romaine St, Peterborough, ON K9J 2C3 • 705-742-2222 • stjamesunitedchurch.ca
More Info: affirmunited.ca • united-church.ca •

**Please rise in body or in spirit*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTROIT

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Iris Muir

"We respectfully acknowledge that St. James is located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which include: Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Rama, Beausoleil, and Georgina Island First Nations. Our St. James congregation respectfully acknowledges that these Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come."

Curve Lake First Nation Land Acknowledgement (adapted slightly for use)

GATHERING WORDS *(responsive)*

Rev. Allan

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

All: The love of Jesus refused compromise with the powerful.

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

All: The love of Jesus made a difficult journey.

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

All: The love of Jesus struggled with temptation, anger, alienation.

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

All: The love of Jesus endured the abandonment and denial of his friends.

One: It is the love of Jesus that we remember here today.

OPENING PRAYER *(responsive)*

Rev. Allan

One: In the midst of uncertainty and doubt,

All: help us to know your loving presence, O God.

One: In the midst of betrayal and rejection,

All: help us to know your friendship, O God.

One: In the midst of powerlessness and despair,

All: help us to know your confidence, O God.

One: In this time of worship and remembrance,
All: help us to know your peace and hope, O God.
One: We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Rev. Julie

*HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

VU#147 vs. 1-3

Words, Music: American folk hymn. Translation: © Centre Nationale de Pastorale Liturgique, 4, avenue Vavin, 75006 Paris, France. Harmony: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.
2. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.
3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme I will sing.

WE REFLECT & WE RESPOND

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:36-46

Maureen Pickett

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." ⁴⁰Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; ^[a] the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴²Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

REFLECTION
(silent reflection)

Feelings of Isolation

Rev. Kevin

SUNG RESPONSE

Draw the Circle Wide

MV#145 – Refrain Only

Words and music: Gordon Light, 1994; arrangement: Michael Bloss, 1998; French translation: Denise Soulodre, 2006 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

Refrain:

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:69-75

Jane Huggins

Peter Denies Knowing Jesus

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A servant-girl came to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰But he denied it before all of them, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about." ⁷¹When he went out to the porch, another servant-girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."^[a] ⁷²Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." ⁷³After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you." ⁷⁴Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. ⁷⁵Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

REFLECTION
(silent reflection)

Being Let Down By a Friend

Rev. Julie

SUNG RESPONSE

Draw the Circle Wide

MV#145 – Refrain Only

Words and music: Gordon Light, 1994; arrangement: Michael Bloss, 1998; French translation: Denise Soulodre, 2006 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

Refrain:

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

GOSPEL READING

Maureen Pickett

Matthew 27:11-14 Pilate Questions Jesus

Matthew 27:27-31 The Soldiers Make Fun of Jesus

¹¹Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." ¹²But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" ¹⁴But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters,^[a] and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹After mocking him,

they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

ANTHEM

REFLECTION

What It's Like to Be Powerless

Rev. Kevin

(silent reflection)

SUNG RESPONSE

Draw the Circle Wide

MV#145 – Refrain Only

Words and music: Gordon Light, 1994; arrangement: Michael Bloss, 1998; French translation: Denise Soulo dre, 2006 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still. Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

PRAYER OF CONTEMPLATION

Rev. Allan

One: God of love, it is hard to believe that the friends of Jesus would let him down at the most crucial moment.

All: We own that sometimes we have been a friend like this. Help us to forgive ourselves and to move forward in a positive and constructive way.

One: God of love, it is difficult to understand that the leaders with the power would fail to understand the goodness, love and care of Jesus.

All: We know that there have been times in our lives that we've had power over another and haven't made the right choices. Help us to forgive ourselves and to move forward in a positive and constructive way.

One: God of love, it is hard to believe that popular opinion could be manipulated to condemn Jesus.

All: We admit that there have been times in our lives when we have gone along with the crowd. Help us to forgive ourselves and to move forward in a positive and constructive way.

One: God of love, it is hard to fathom that the cruel death of crucifixion was tolerated.

All: We know that there have been times where we have turned a blind eye to the countless cruelties and injustices of our time. Help us to forgive ourselves and to move forward in a positive and constructive way.

One: God of love, help us to be courageous, generous, informed and engaged followers of Jesus. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY MUSIC

***SUNG OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* **VU#149 vs. 4**

Words: Isaac Watts. French translation: Pauline Martin. Music: second supplement to Psalmody in Miniature. Adapted by Edward Miller. Harmonized by Samuel Sebbe. Descant: © Hope Publishing Company.

4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small:
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Rev. Julie

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 27:32-44 - Jesus Is Crucified

Jane Huggins

³²As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which

means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;^[a] ³⁶then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹Those who passed by derided^[b] him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself."^[c] He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, 'I am God's Son.'" ⁴⁴The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

REFLECTION

Crucifixion Echoes Down Through the Ages

Rev. Julie

(silent reflection)

*SUNG RESPONSE

Draw the Circle Wide

MV#145 – Refrain Only

Words and music: Gordon Light, 1994; arrangement: Michael Bloss, 1998; French translation: Denise Soulodre, 2006 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

Refrain:

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still. Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

GOSPEL READING *Matthew 27:45-56 - The Death of Jesus*

Maureen Pickett

⁴⁵From noon on, darkness came over the whole land^[a] until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "This man is calling for Elijah." ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."^[b] ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.^[c] ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"^[d]

⁵⁵Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

The Jesus candle is extinguished.

REFLECTION

Rev. Kevin

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

Rev. Julie

HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

VU#149 vs. 1,3,4

Words: Isaac Watts. French translation: Pauline Martin. Music: second supplement to Psalmody in Miniature. Adapted by Edward Miller.
Harmonized by Samuel Sebbe. Descant: © Hope Publishing Company.

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
3. See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small:
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

WE GO OUT

*BLESSING

Rev. Kevin

One: Leave this time of worship remembering that God loves us unconditionally.

All: Open your heart to others that they may also know God's love.

One: Be assured that even when life is full of shadows
and seemingly stripped of meaning,
there is the hope of Easter morning. Amen.

*SUNG BLESSING

Stay with Us through the Night

VU#182 vs. 1-2

Words: © 1986 Walter Farquharson. Music: © 1986 Ron Klusmeier. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A- 723161. All rights reserved.

1. Stay with us through the night Stay with us through the pain.
Stay with us, blessed stranger till the morning breaks again.
2. Stay with us through the night. Stay with us through the grief.
Stay with us, blessed stranger till the morning brings relief.

*Thank you for joining us for our Good Friday service.
Please join us for a time of fellowship & refreshment
At the back of the sanctuary.*

Blessings of Peace and Hope to you on this difficult day.

