

**Bethel Presbyterian Church
Corner of George & Brookland Streets
Sydney, NS**



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
Friday, April 2nd, 2021
1:00 p.m.

Leading Worship
Rev. Robert Lyle
Brad Gillespie

Music Director
Peter MacDonald

Order of Service

Prelude

Announcements

Brad Gillespie

Call to Worship

On this day we gather to remember Jesus our Savior who loved us and gave himself for us. Let us draw near in full assurance of God's endless love and mercy.

We give our thanks and praise to Jesus Christ who carries our sorrows, heals our wounds, and redeems us from sin and death.

Prayer of Approach (in unison)

As we gather together today, we remember the supreme sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. Led like a lamb to the slaughter, clothed in humility and grace, he willingly offered himself to death so that we might live forever. We are truly thankful for the extent of his love, stretched out on a cruel wooden cross. We dwell on the pain he bore for us and are truly grateful for the forgiveness that he offers. As we worship and praise now, help us to live in the wonder of this goodness and marvel at his endless grace. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

We confess to You, our Lord and Savior, that we have betrayed and denied You, forgotten and doubted You. When our faith is tested, we wonder where You are. When we see injustice in the world, we often stand by, we turn our backs, we ignore the cries of others. We confess that again and again we deny You and betray You with our silence when we fail to

proclaim Your Good News, when we fail to live out Your teachings and love our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us, O God, and help us to truly repent. Help us to remember Your sacrifice, Your love, and to know Your forgiveness. In the name of the One who lived, who was crucified, and who lives again, Jesus the Messiah, we pray. Amen.

Organ Music *Beneath the cross of Jesus* (238)

O. T. Lesson *Isaiah 52:13-53:12*

13 See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. 14 Just as there were many who were appalled at him — his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness — 15 so he will sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand. 53 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. 4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his

mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. 9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. 10 Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. 11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Responsive Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

²**My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest.**

³Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.

⁴**In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.**

⁵To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

⁷All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

⁸“He trusts in the LORD,” they say, “let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”

⁹Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother’s breast.

¹⁰From birth I was cast on you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God.

¹¹Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

¹²Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

¹³Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me.

¹⁵My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

¹⁷All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me.

¹⁸They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

¹⁹But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

20 Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.

21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

22 I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.

25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the LORD will praise him— may your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,

28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations.

29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive.

30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord.

31 They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!

L: The night and day are dark and difficult. This man did not deserve to be hit and spat upon—denied, forsaken, mocked.

P: Crucify him! Crucify him!

L: This is the hardest part of the journey – Jesus betrayed, arrested, brought before the authorities, tried and condemned.

Beaten, rejected, a crown of thorns pressed on his brow, and the crowd chants “Crucify him!”

P: Crucify him! Crucify him!

L: Head bowed down, the Lord of life is condemned to die. O Lord, was this for us?

P: God, forgive us for all the ways we have left you and not followed you and your ways.

L: It is finished. The temple veil torn. The world is dark. Silence.

L: Let us pray.

All: God of truth, keep us from being distracted from following you, until the journey is complete, and death is trampled down by death and eternal life is given to all. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen

Organ Music *O sacred head, sore wounded* (239)

N.T. Epistle *Hebrews 10:16-25*

¹⁶“This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” ¹⁷Then he adds: “Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.” ¹⁸And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary. ¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to

enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

N.T. Gospel

John 18:1-19:42

Solo:

When I survey the wondrous cross

Walter Letcher

Sermon

At the cross

A Prayer for Good Friday

Benediction

Postlude

Were you there?

(233)

Welcome

We welcome everyone to this service this afternoon and pray that all will be blessed as we worship together and remember the grace given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks to Brad Gillespie, Peter MacDonald and Walter Letcher for their part in the service today.

The free-will offering this afternoon will be given to support the Cancer Patient Care Fund.