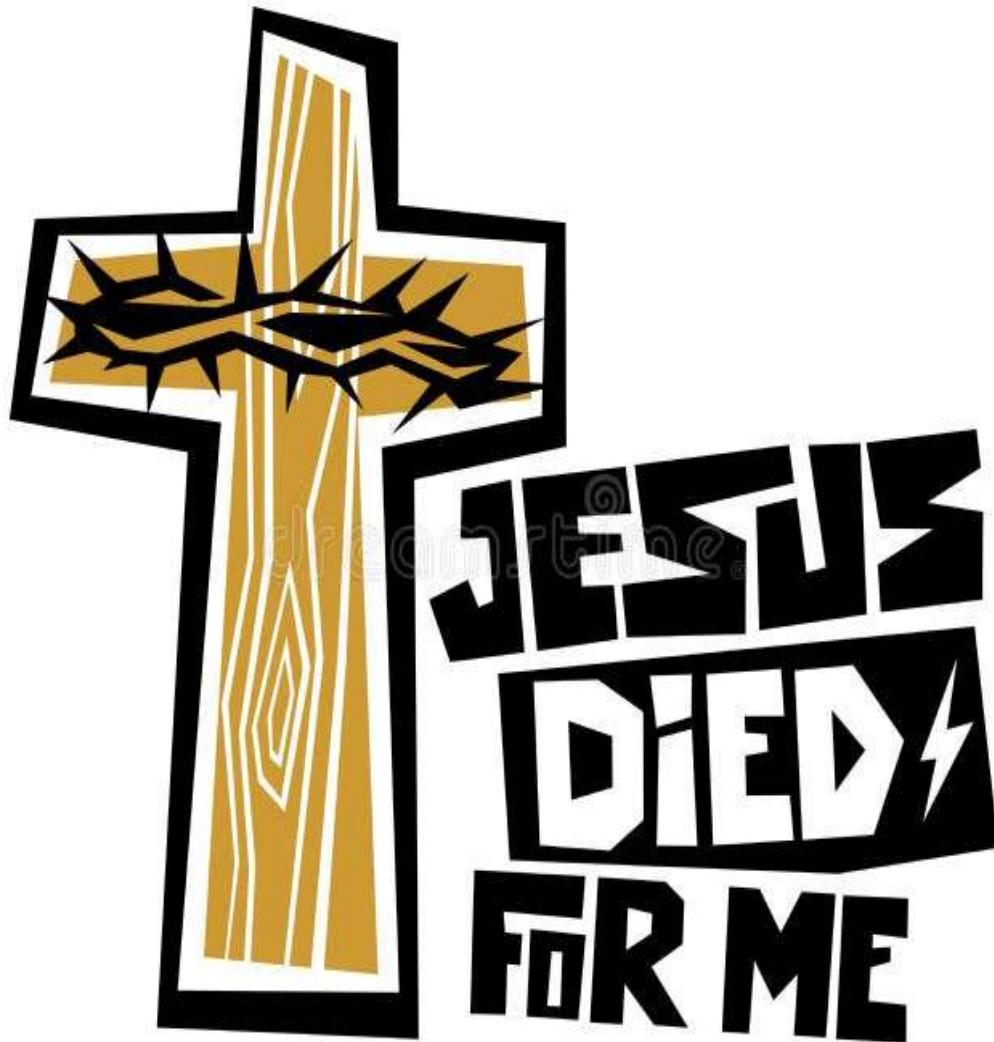




St. Davids-Queenston United Church

April 3, 2026, 10:30am, Good Friday Service



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Land Acknowledgement

There were people here long before we came to live on this land as settlers and descendants of settlers. We acknowledge these many Nations of Indigenous people who first lived and currently live here. We give thanks to this land, the territory(s) of these Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples. We do this to acknowledge our responsibility to enhance and promote peace among all who now share this land, as well as good stewardship of it and its resources.

(* Please stand up as you are able)

GATHERING AND MUSICAL PRELUDE

WELCOME

*OPENING HYMN: VU #266 "Amazing Grace"

266 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares,
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me,
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years,
that saved *a wretch like me! I once was lost,
and grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did
I have al - read - y come; 'tis grace that brought
this word my hope se - cures; God will my shield
bright shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days
but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
and por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
to sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we light this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of all the children in the world who suffer in body, in mind or in spirit.

(A candle is lit.) Let us pray:

What we contemplate this night is beyond words, beyond understanding. May the Holy Spirit intercede for us and give voice to what, for us, is inexpressible. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

On this Holy Friday, we follow Jesus through a sham trial and up the hill to Golgotha, all the while questioning:

My God, my God, where are you? **We follow the women who held vigil at the foot of the cross, all the while despairing:**

My God, my God, where are you? **We come near to Jesus as soldiers mock him, all the while crying out:**

My God, my God, where are you? **We sit in grief and dismay, once again confronted with the horrible reality of sin and evil in our world that people just like us would crucify Love Incarnate.**

And all the while, God sits with us, saying: **My child, my child, I am here. Come, let us worship God who, even on this day, is never far from us. Amen.**

GATHERING PRAYER

We come here today, O God, because we don't know what else to do. **It is a holy day, because it is the day your son Jesus died on a cross.**

It is a day that is hard to approach because brokenness and death are still hard to accept in our lives and our world.

Give us strength to be here with you today, O God, so we might come to know that, as you were with Jesus then, so you are with us still in our brokenness and the brokenness in the world. Amen.

SACRED MUSIC: "God So Loved the World"

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 52:13—53:12

Hebrews 10:16–25

This is the Word of God for the people of God **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON: "The Beauty of the Broken: From Suffering to Assurance"

*HYMN: VU # 141 "They Crucified My Lord"

*They crucified my Lord,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
they crucified my Lord,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
not a word, not a word, not a word.*

*They nailed him to a tree,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
they nailed him to a tree,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
not a word, not a word, not a word.*

*They pierced him in the side,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
they pierced him in the side,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
not a word, not a word, not a word.*

*The blood came streamin' down,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
the blood came streamin' down,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
not a word, not a word, not a word.*

*He hung his head and died,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
he hung his head and died,
and he never said a mumbalin' word;
not a word, not a word, not a word.*

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

We gather this day not in celebration, but in solemn remembrance.

He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities.

Upon Him was the punishment that made us whole.

And by His bruises, we are healed.

*HYMN: # VU 148 "Jesus Remember Me" (2x)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom

Prayer of Blessing:

And as we come to his table now, we proclaim the truth that this sacred meal reminds us of:

That God demonstrates his own love towards us in this: while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

The Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God, we confess that we have often turned away from your love. We have stood at a distance from the cross. Forgive us for our silence, our pride, and our lack of faith. As we partake in this meal, remind us of the cost of our redemption. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper, He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

We Receive the Bread and Cup:

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

"The Body of Christ, broken for you." **Amen.**

"The Blood of Christ, shed for you." **Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, we have stood at the foot of the cross and shared in the bread of your sorrow. We thank you that you did not turn back from the suffering, but endured the cross for the sake of the world.

As we leave this place in silence, let the memory of your sacrifice remain written upon our hearts. Grant us the grace to carry our own crosses with faith, to love others as you have loved us, and to be witnesses of your mercy in a broken world.

May the darkness of this day remind us of the depth of your love, and may we wait in solemn hope for the light of the third day.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend our spirits. **Amen.**

* CLOSING HYMN VU# 142 "Jesus Keep Me
Near the Cross"

*Jesus, keep me near the cross,
There a precious fountain,
Free to all—a healing stream,
Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.*

*In the cross, in the cross,
Be my glory ever;
From the cross my ransomed soul
Nothing then shall sever.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul,
Love and mercy found me;
There the Bright and Morning Star
Sheds its beams around me.*

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
Bring its scenes before me;*

*Help me walk from day to day,
With its shadow o'er me.*

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I see my Savior's face,
Leave His presence never.*

COMMISSIONING AND VESPER

Go forth from this place, not in forgetfulness, but in deep remembrance. Carry the story of the cross into the shadows of the world. Be a voice for the silent, a hand for the fallen, and a witness to the Love that was willing to die so that we might live. Go in peace to serve a broken world. **Amen.**

*Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see;
God will be there, watching from above,
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen*

* PIANO POSTLUDE