

Centennial United Church, Stayner

Friday April 3rd, 2026 – 10:30am

Good Friday-Naming Racism



Worship Leader: Jennifer Irving

Pianist: Megan Arksey

Please join in the words in bold print

* Please stand in body or in spirit as you are able

Words of Wisdom: *"My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be."* ~ Samuel Crossman

Welcome

Centering Ourselves in Worship & Christ Candle Lighting

Listen. Pay attention. (*pause*) What do you notice?

Time moving too fast when we want it to slow down.

Listen. Pay attention. (*pause*) What do you notice?

The rapid beating of our hearts

because we know what is to come on this day.

Listen. Pay attention. (*pause*) What do you notice?

**Time moving on at the same speed, no matter what we wish,
no matter what we dread, no matter what our heart's desire.**

Listen. Pay attention. (*pause*) What do you notice?

The rhythm of Jesus' steps toward the cross.

The Christ Candle is lit.

Jesus is in our midst.

We welcome him. We journey with him today.

Introit VU #148 "Jesus, Remember Me" (*sing three times*)

Prayer for Transformation

On this day of days, this turning point of Christ's journey,
this falling down into sadness and grief, into death and misery,

tearfully, we point the finger. We choose someone to blame.

We experience the crowd shouting, "Crucify him."

We are aware of the whipping and the taunting.

We are there as Jesus is led away and nailed to the cross.

Desperately, we point the finger. We choose someone to blame

We blame the Judeans. We blame the priests.

We blame the Romans. We blame Pilate and Herod.

We dare not look into our own hearts.

Fearfully, we point the finger. We choose someone to blame.

Through the centuries, the pattern is the same. ... to name as foe.

Boldly, we point the finger. We choose someone to blame.

But all is not always as it seems.... blame and finger-pointing.

Pointing the finger brings no solution.

Choosing someone to blame brings no healing.

We move to the foot of the cross,

tearfully admitting the truth,

desperately accepting some responsibility,

fearfully turning toward Jesus and his suffering,

boldly seeking healing and pardon.

But Jesus does not point the finger.

Jesus does not choose someone to blame.

“Forgive them” is all that is said.

And it is enough to begin the journey

toward a world free of blame and finger-pointing;

toward a life of mending relationships that have been broken

by racism and prejudice, by discrimination and intolerance.

May it be so, O God,

in our lives today and always. Amen.

***Hymn VU #105 “Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face”**

The Seventh Lesson: Matthew 26:47-56 *Jesus is Arrested*

Time of Reflection *(Choir will sing TLUS #81 Agnus Dei/Lamb of God)*

Hymn VU #134 “Shadows Gather Deep and Cold” *(Tune: 136)*

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 26:57-75 *Peter denies knowing Jesus*

Time of Reflection *(Choir will sing TLUS #81 Agnus Dei/Lamb of God)*

Hymn VU #182 “Stay With Us Through the Night”

The Ninth Lesson: Matthew 27:1-26 *Jesus before Pilate*

Time of Reflection *(Choir will sing TLUS #81 Agnus Dei/Lamb of God)*

***Hymn VU #149 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”**

The Tenth Lesson: Matthew 27:27-44 *Jesus is nailed on the Cross*

Time of Reflection *(Choir will sing TLUS #81 Agnus Dei/Lamb of God)*

***Hymn VU #135 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"**

The Eleventh Lesson: Matthew 27:45-66 *Jesus Dies*

The Christ Candle is Extinguished

Time of Reflection (*Choir will sing TLUS #81 Agnus Dei/Lamb of God*)

Centering Ourselves for the Easter Vigil

Listen. Pay attention. (*pause*) What do you notice?

Time has stopped for us.

We hold our breath, hoping it isn't so.

**We keep still, hoping that Jesus will come around the corner
and tell one of those amazing stories he was always telling.**

We want to freeze this moment

because we can't face the rhythm of life without Jesus.

Listen. Pay attention. (*pause*) What do you notice?

**Time moving on for the rest of the world, cars honking,
conversations continuing, sports fans gathering,
children laughing and playing, wind blowing, life happening.**

While we face the worst that life can offer,

others are oblivious to our sorrow, to our faith, to our hope.

Listen. Pay attention. (*pause*) What do you notice?

Nothing...nothing at all.

Did God forsake Jesus?

Has God forsaken us?

Listen. Pay attention. (*pause*) What do you notice?

What do you notice?

The Christ Candle is carried out.

We Go from This Place to Watch and Wait...

Please leave quietly as you are ready.

*Our service continues on Easter Sunday with our **Sunrise Service**
at Maxine and David's at 259 Christopher at **6:45am April 5th**
and culminate with our **Celebration of Easter**
with Hot Cross Buns at 9:30am and **Worship at 10:30am***

*This Good Friday Worship Service was adapted from one written
by Susan Lukey and David Robertson on gatheringworship.ca*