

*My God, My God,
why have you
forsaken me?*

Matthew 27:46

Good Friday Service

April 3, 2026

10:00 AM

Gathering Music

“How Deep the Peace” (MV # 95)

Welcome



Lenten Candle Lighting Prayer

Into the shadows of chaos, out of the silence of death, and into the emptiness of our souls...

We light the Christ Candle, whose life is broken for each of us. Amen.



Call To Worship

Good Friday is a difficult part of our faith.

It is a day of darkness and death.

A day that seemed like the sun would never shine. What would it have been like...

**To have been there among the angry crowds yelling
“Crucify !” ?**

To have heard the blow of the hammer on the nails ?

To have seen Jesus pierced in His side ?

**To have been there when He breathed His last
breath ?**

This Good Friday, we are invited to experience the darkest day of the year.

- 1 Bitter was the night,
thought the cock would crow for ever.
Bitter was the night
before the break of day.

- 2 Saw you passing by,
told them all I didn't know you.
Bitter was the night
before the break of day.

3 Told them all a lie,
and I told it three times over.
Bitter was the night
before the break of day.

4 What did Judas do ?
Sold him for a bag of silver.
Bitter was the night
before the break of day.

**5 What did Judas do ?
Hanged himself upon an
alder.
Bitter was the night**

6 Bitter was the night,
thought there'd never be a morning.
Bitter was the night
before the break of day.

7 Bitter was the night,
thought the cock would crow for ever.
Bitter was the night
before the break of day.





EXPERIENCING The Word

“Were You There ?”

only Instrument by Jan

EXPERIENCING The Palm

Noreen: We remember how our story began with a hero's welcome, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem and the crowds embraced him in their hearts. They celebrated as He rode into their community. It was a day of joy and festivities!

Scripture

Matthew 21:6-9

read by Colleen

The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Sing (all) VU # 144

Were you there when they welcomed him with palms ?

Were you there when they welcomed him with palms ?

**Oh ! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble....**

Were you there when they welcomed him with palms ?

EXPERIENCING The Meal

Noreen: Later that same week, Jesus and the friends he dearly loved celebrated the holy Passover meal. They gathered alone in the Upper Room.

Scripture

Matthew 26:26-28

read by Colleen

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my Body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. This is my Blood of the Covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Sing (all) VU # 144

Were you there when they *shared the bread and wine* ?

Were you there when they *shared the bread and wine* ?

**Oh ! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble,
tremble, tremble....**

Were you there when they *shared the bread and wine* ?

EXPERIENCING The Servant

Noreen: In that room, Jesus taught those who loved him how to follow. He taught that the master was to be the servant, and the servant was to be the master.

Scripture

John 13:3–5

read by Colleen

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

Sing (all) VU # 144

Were you there when Jesus washed their feet ?

Were you there when Jesus washed their feet ?

**Oh ! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble....**

Were you there when Jesus washed their feet ?

EXPERIENCING The Betrayal

Noreen: Jesus' love was met with betrayal. Money was exchanged for love.

Scripture

Matthew 26:14-15

read by Colleen

Then one of the Twelve - the one called Judas Iscariot - went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you ?"

So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver.

Sing (all) VU # 144

Were you there when they betrayed him ?

Were you there when they betrayed him ?

**Oh ! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble....**

Were you there when they betrayed him ?

EXPERIENCING The Denial

Noreen: Some thought they were better than others.

They said they would always remain loyal to Jesus. But in the end, even those closest to him denied that they even knew Jesus.

Scripture

Luke 22:33-34

read by Colleen

But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

Jesus answered, “I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me.”

Sing (all) VU # 144

Were you there when the rooster crowed that day ?

Were you there when the rooster crowed that day ?

**Oh ! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble....**

Were you there when the rooster crowed that day ?

EXPERIENCING The Angry Crowds

Noreen: In the end, even the crowds that had welcomed him with palms in hand chose to hand Jesus over to death.

Scripture

Mark 15:12-14

read by Colleen

“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews ?” Pilate asked them.

“Crucify him !” they shouted.

“Why ? What crime has he committed ?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him !”

Sing (all) VU # 144

Were you there when they shouted, “Crucify” ?

Were you there when they shouted, “Crucify” ?

**Oh ! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble....**

Were you there when they shouted, “Crucify” ?

EXPERIENCING Jesus' Death

Noreen: In the end, life was drained from Jesus' body.

Upon the Cross, the power of the world took away his last earthly breath.

Scripture

Mark 15:33-34

read by Colleen

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")

Sing (all) VU # 144

Were you there when the sun refused to shine ?

Were you there when the sun refused to shine ?

**Oh ! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble....**

Were you there when the sun refused to shine ?

EXPERIENCING The Tomb

Noreen: What began with palms ends with the tomb.

What began with love is touched by death.

What is understood as an end still continues through God's love and power.

Scripture

Mark 15:46-47

read by Colleen

So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

Sing (all) VU # 144

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb ?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb ?

**Oh ! Sometimes, it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble....**

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb ?

Reflection



Mary's Monologue:

"My Son, My Son, My Dearest Son"

by Diane



The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowéd be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be
done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as
we forgive those who trespass
against us. And lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory, for
ever and ever. Amen.**

- 1 There is a green hill far away,
outside a city wall,
where the dear Lord was crucified,
who died to save us all.
- 2 We may not know, we cannot tell,
what pains he had to bear;
but we believe it was for us
he hung and suffered there.

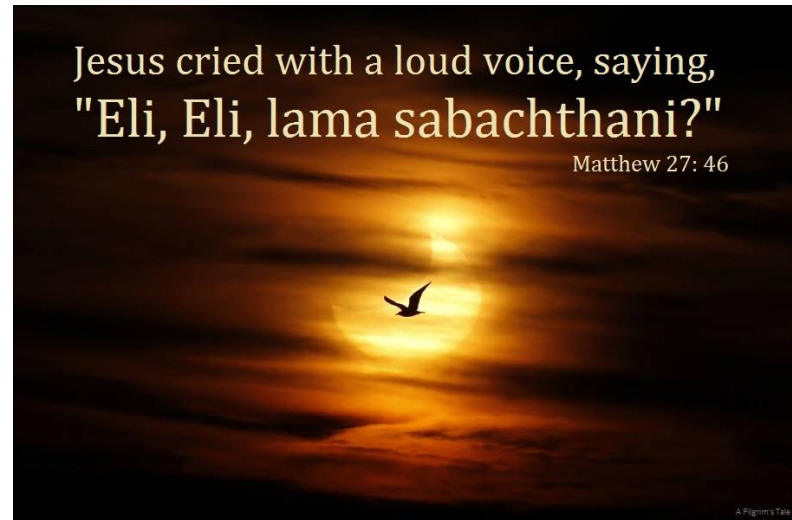


3 There was no other good enough
to pay the price of Sin;
his death has opened wide the Gate
of Heaven, to let us in.

4 O dearly, dearly has he loved,
and we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming blood,
and try his works to do.

Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying,
"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?"

Matthew 27: 46



Blessing and Sending Forth

But this is not the end of the story

Those who had experienced the tragic events of
Good Friday

would experience something new and different on
Easter Sunday.

For where the human story ends, God's story of
hope just begins.



*(As the Service ends the Christ
Candle is extinguished)*

**The parade is over. The laments,
the denials, the excuses, the
betrayals are over. In fact, it is all
over. Shadows have replaced
light; fear has swallowed hope.
It is finished.
What now?**





*Now in Silence,
we will leave this Good Friday Service.*

May the Lord be with you

See you on Easter Sunday !