



Merging Waters Pastoral Charge
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 10th, 2020

WELCOME

SPIRITUAL FOCUS

We come to the garden seeking freedom,
And find darkness and confinement.

We turn to Jesus for liberation,
And find a brother in chains.

We turn to God to make the world fair,
**And find that God walks with us,
Weeps with us in compassion and love;
Asking us to co-create justice.**

OPENING PRAYER *(VU 150 adapted)*

**God of passionate and vulnerable love,
whose body, broken on the cross
inspires and challenges us still:
Save us, hold us, and forgive us,
that you as victor and victim
might lead us from death to life;
through Jesus, the Crucified. Amen.**

THE STORY UNFOLDS John 17: 25; 18:1-10; 12-24; 26-27

PRAYER

Loving God, you have lived as we live, you have feared as we fear, you have died as we die and you have brought us the hope of new life. As we seek to find joy in Easter we live in the now of pain and loss. And we know that you too have sought hope. Unforsaken in love we journey to the cross with you. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

TIME OF SILENCE

THE STORY CONTINUES John 18: 28-40 & 19: 1-8; & 14-25

PRAYER

Loving Spirit, having known times of trial yourself, remind us that you continue with us in ours. You stand with us in suffering and have stood before us in hope; remind us that you are with us in our pain. Help us to be present with Jesus in his time of need and betrayal, loving God, and remind us that we are not alone as we experience the sorrow and fear - thirsting for justice in an unjust world. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

TIME OF SILENCE

THE CONCLUSION OF THE STORY

John 19: 25-42

PRAYER

Loving God, together with our brother Jesus we lift our weeping and our sorrow. In the darkness of our times we seek your presence, can we feel it? In the pain of our lives we look for hope, can we find it? In this time of loss, we seek Divine accompaniment, do we reach for it? We look into the darkness, and find your eyes looking back, filled with tears of hope; holding us in your arms, loving us through despair. Amen.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

TIME OF SILENCE

SENDING FORTH AND BLESSINGS

WE DEPART IN SILENCE WITH HOPE OF RESURRECTION

WHAT IS GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

Originally named God's Friday, the term Good Friday is thought to have come about in the same way as goodbye has its roots in the phrase "God be with you".

The question begs itself though, is the best adjective for this day "GOOD"? Perhaps IGNORED or FORSAKEN FRIDAY might better describe this day for Christians whose roots beckon them to honour this day as a HOLY day rather than a HOLIDAY... Regardless of what we call it, even for Christians, Good Friday is not one of the most favourite of high holy days, holy though it be ...

Called together to move from the Hosannas of the Palm Procession on Palm Passion Sunday to the Hallelujahs of Easter, we gather here at the foot of the cross to offer our love and support, to search for meaning and hope in the midst of pain and to acknowledge sadness as true and real.

Here, remembering God's covenantal promise to be with us always, we can rest awhile, along with Jesus, in the everlasting arms, difficult as that may be.

Knowing that this day was not the end for Jesus, but a beginning of something new, something unforeseen, something beyond our ken, we accept the day.

In the midst of our deep sadness, we know, too, there is also hope in a new tomorrow. This is what's good about Good Friday. May it be so.