



Good Friday Youth Liturgy

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The Celebration of the Lord's Passion

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, look graciously, we pray, on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and given into the hands of sinners, and to

suffer death upon the cross;
who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever
and ever. Amen.

The Passion of Christ According to John

John: The voice in the wilderness calls out once more.....we like sheep have gone astray! Jesus was despised....despised and rejected. A man of sorrow...filled with grief. And those same crowds who shouted at his entry into Jerusalem; who cheered for the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Where have they gone? Who will cheer now for the King of Kings? Oh, we like sheep have gone astray and my heart is full of sorrow.

Jesus knew that his Hour had come when he would leave this world. Before the Feast of the Passover, he washed our feet and told us that we were to wash one another's feet – to do unto them what he had done for us. The master becomes the servant. He knew that the hour had come – and he knew also that one of us – his chosen disciples – would betray him. He was a man of sorrow, filled with grief and yet he gave us all a new commandment...to love each other as he loved us. He said that was how people would know that we were His disciples....by our love. Jesus was despised....despised and rejected and yet He commanded us to love each other. Oh, we like sheep have gone astray and my heart is full of sorrow. Go now to the Garden – to dark Gethsemane – where the Lord went to pray.

Hymn: Verse 1 - Go to Dark Gethsemane #132

The Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew: I remember, as we walked to the Garden of Gethsemane with Jesus, he turned to us gently and said, "You will all leave me." Of course, we all said, "No, no, Lord, we would not do that!"

But Jesus had already told Peter that he would deny even knowing his Lord. How foolish we were not to listen. Not to heed the warnings.

When we got to the Garden, it wasn't long before we heard the sound of marching feet. We looked, and there was Judas - our Brother and

friend - leading a troop of soldiers right to the place where Jesus knelt in prayer.

Mark: Jesus said to them “Whom are you seeking?” and, when they answered, “Jesus of Nazareth”, our Teacher answered calmly, “I am He.” Simon Peter drew his sword to fight the guards and cut off the ear of the High Priest’s servant. But Jesus told Simon Peter to put away his sword saying, “Will I not drink of the cup which my Father has given me?” Oh, my heart almost broke. Trusting God till the end and accepting his fate. And he knew it. He knew it all. It all happened just as he said. How foolish were we not to listen. Not to heed the warnings. Quietly and calmly, he let the guards put him under arrest and lead him to prison.

Luke: I can’t believe this has happened! If only we had kept watch over Jesus as he prayed, we could have warned Him. Maybe Jesus could have run away and then ...No. Jesus wouldn’t have run. He knew that one of his friends would betray him and, even though it made him sad, he knew he had to let it happen. I shudder to think of what else will happen. Please, watch yourselves, for there is a deep, terrible darkness tonight.

Hymn: Verse 2 - Go to Dark Gethsemane #132

The High Priests

Soldier: Make way....make way for the High Priest, Caiaphus.

Caiaphus: Pilate, I come before you about an evil doer – a man named Jesus. He claims to be a teacher but he is a blasphemer. He claims to be the Son of God though he is too cowardly to say it outright to us.

Priest: He chooses to confuse us with riddles rather than admit to blasphemy. He is insolent and he must be stopped.

Soldiers: Crucify him! Crucify him!

High Priest: The laws of our faith do not let a man be put to death but this one man must die for the good of the people.

Soldiers: Crucify him! Crucify him!

Peter Denies Jesus

Anna: Shalom! Come. Warm yourselves by the fire.

It is a dark night, not a star in the sky. It makes you think that something terrible is about to happen. They brought that man, Jesus of Nazareth, by here a few hours ago “for questioning”.

Sarah: Questioning, ha! They don't want answers; they just want Him to suffer. They say Jesus is a healer, a teacher ... a dangerous man to those in power. The religious leaders are so afraid of Jesus. I am afraid FOR Jesus! While Jesus was with the guards, a few of his friends waited here with me by the fire. I looked at one of the men and I thought I recognized him from the parade earlier today. I asked him, “Hey, weren't you with Jesus?” But the man hid his face from me and said, “I don't know what you're talking about.” In the distance, a rooster crowed. I looked at him again as he hid in the shadows. “Yes,” I said, “I'm sure of it. You are one of Jesus' disciples!” “No”, he said firmly, “I am not.” I decided to let the matter drop but my father, who had been

listening to our conversation, said, “I can tell from your accent that you are from Galilee, like Jesus. Surely, you know him.” The man emerged from the shadows to look my father straight in the eye. He said, “I don’t know this man you are talking about.” The words were barely out of his mouth when the rooster crowed a second time. The man’s eyes grew wide and his mouth opened wide, as if he had seen a ghost! He covered his face with his hands and said, “Before the rooster crows twice ... He knew!” Then he sank sobbing back into the shadows.

Rebecca: I was told by my father that the man’s name was Peter. I am not sure what he did but he truly looked like he did something terribly wrong. Even though the dawn is breaking, I will keep the fire lit. I feel as if there is something terribly wrong about to happen. Please remember all that has passed here, for I believe it will prove to be important someday. *(Children go back to their seats)*

Song: “Don’t Be Afraid” (From More Voices)

Don’t be afraid, my love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don’t be afraid, my love is stronger.

And I have promised, promised to be always near.

Trial By Pontius:

The priests were convinced that Jesus was guilty. They were going to punish him, regardless of what I said or did. Why couldn’t they just leave me out of it? As Governor, I am the one who sentences the prisoners. I am **supposed** to have the power to determine whether prisoners live or die but the crowds were screaming,

“Crucify him! Crucify him!” What could I do? After the priests were finished questioning Jesus, they brought him to me for trial. Trial, Ha! I

looked in Jesus' eyes and, they were so kind and knowing, I could tell that he was a good man. He did not deserve to die, that I knew. But, how could I go against the head priests? Then I thought of the perfect plan; on Passover, I am allowed by law to release one prisoner. I thought the people would cheer to have their King, Jesus, released. That way, I could still look good **and** save Jesus' life. It would have been perfect. But the people yelled, "**Crucify him! Crucify him!**" They would rather free a thief named Barabbas than this kind, gentle man before me. I didn't know what else to do, so I brought out a bowl of water and I began cleansing my hands. "I wash my hands of this", I said. And then I asked the people, his people, "Tell me what to do with Jesus." These people, these same people who cheered as Jesus rode into Jerusalem now shouted, "**Crucify him! Crucify him!**" The guards led Jesus away to the courtyard where they stripped off his robe and gambled for it. They whipped him and beat him and placed a crown of thorns on his head to mock him. A king with a crown of thorns. I couldn't watch. The guards made Jesus carry his own heavy cross, like this one. When the guards asked for someone to help Jesus, only one man said, "I will help." Would you help? With all those people shouting "**Crucify him, Crucify him!**" I couldn't help. I didn't help. And now, no matter how many times I wash my hands, they will never again be clean. As you leave this place, remember how hard it is to stand alone and say, "I will help."
(Children come forward and carry the cross around the church while the hymn is being sung)

Hymn: Verses 1-4 Were You There? #192

Sixth Reading: The Crucifixion

Mary: I can hardly bear to remember what happened, let alone tell you the story. Jesus was crucified at nine o'clock in the morning. His disciples, friends and family gathered at the foot of his cross. We had all let him down. The least we could do was be there for him at the end. At noon, a darkness came across the land and blocked out the sun. The guards were afraid but we had nothing to fear anymore. Our worst fear had already come true. Jesus was crucified. The darkness in the sky echoed the darkness we felt in our hearts. Jesus spoke a few times from the cross, his voice cutting through the heavy air.

Jesus: Woman, behold your son. Behold your mother.

Mary: How could he think about the needs of others when His own life was fading? Even in that darkness, Jesus wanted us to take care of each other.

Jesus: I thirst.

Mary: A sponge filled with sour wine was put to his lips. How he must have suffered!

Jesus: It is... finished.

Martha: Jesus had breathed his last breath. It was finished. What was left for us? What could we do but mourn the loss of our teacher and friend. Because it was almost the Sabbath, we asked if we might take

Jesus' body away. The guards saw that Jesus was already dead but they pierced his side anyways. But he would suffer no more. Joseph of Arimathea took Jesus' body and laid it in a tomb. Now, I feel as if there is nothing to believe in. It feels like all my hope died up there on the cross. It is the darkest day my heart has ever known. Feel the weight of this cross upon your heart and remember what can happen when we like sheep have gone astray.

Meditations on the Cross BAS pg. 313

Children come forward and kneel at the front

**Response: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal one,
have mercy upon us.**

Youth Choir: Ten Thousand Angels Cried

Final Prayer:

Send down your abundant blessing, Lord, upon your people
Who have devoutly recalled the death of your Son
In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.
Grant them pardon; bring them comfort.
May their faith grow stronger and their eternal salvation be assured.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregation leaves in silence

*The bulletin this morning is in loving memory of
Nana Anna and many happy Easters in Nova Scotia*