The United Church of Canada

L'Église Unie du Canada

**St. Andrew’s United Church**

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| **March 29th, 2024. Good Friday** |

**Our Mission Statement**

“St. Andrew’s United Church is a Christian Community of Faith

that shares Christ’s love through

**Worship, Fellowship, Spiritual Growth, and Outreach**.”

**A sunset over a lake

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***Sunset today for resurrection tomorrow***

*<Photo Credit: St. Andrew’s United Church>*

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| **188 Wellington Street. Miramichi, NB. E1N 1M4**  **Tel & Fax: 506-773-9932**  **Church Email: chathamstauc@nb.aibn.com** |

**Good Friday Service**

(March 29th, 2023. 11:00 am.)

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Eunkyu Ji

**Organist & Choir Director:** Lois McKinnon

**Greeters:** Ferne MacLean & Liz Mullin

***\**** *At this sign, let us present ourselves, body, mind, and spirit to God*

*as comfortable. (Stand up or stay seated)*

**We Gather To Worship**

**Music Prelude:**

**Candle Lighting: Judy Donnelly**

God meets us in our suffering. As we sit in the presence of Jesus’ suffering, take comfort in the fact that this is not the end of his story. It's not our end, either.

We gather here to see the new hope and life beyond Christ's suffering on the Cross. O Jesus, remember us when you come into the Kingdom of God.

**Greetings:**

**\*Call to Worship:**

In sorrow, we gather this day.

**Even now, we proclaim our hope in Christ.**

In remembrance of his suffering, we gather to worship.

**Even now, we find rest in the courage of Christ.**

In contemplation and reflection, we gather to pray.

**Our faith and confidence in Christ are sure.**

***Mary Scifres****, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*

**\*Opening Hymn:** VU 133, “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

**\*Opening Prayer:** (*together*)

**Anointed One, so grateful are we**

**for your willingness to experience**

**such pain and suffering for our sakes.**

**Humbled are we by the depth of your sacrifice.**

**Incredibly blessed is all of creation to be so loved.**

**It is our prayer that no more people should suffer**

**as you suffered,**

**that no more people should be unjustly tried**

**as you were tried, tortured as you were tortured,**

**killed as you were killed.**

**May those who thirst not receive bitter offerings**

**but be truly quenched with water and the Word.**

**May those who are alone and afraid be embraced**

**by new families. Amen.**

***Karen Boivin****, Gathering Worship, L/E 2024*

**Prayer of confession:**

Like Peter, we lost courage on the road to the cross

and misunderstood your good news.

Forgive us for our unfaithfulness.

Draw us near to your love,

for we live in a world full of hate and anger.

Grant us the courage, mighty God,

to endure the trials of this life.

Grant us the faith to embrace hope,

even in moments of despair.

Sing your Spirit into our lives,

that we may sing your praises,

even on this day of deep grief.

O Lord, now we go into deep silence to confess our weakness.

Hear all our voices and renew us in your mercy.

*(a time of silent prayer)*

**Words of Assurance:**

Those who are hungry will be well-fed. Those suffering will find comfort and hope. Those who are hurt will recover and become whole.

Through the grace and love of Christ Jesus, we are forgiven people. We will live as the people of God, faithfully and truly.

**Thanks be to God!**

***Mary Scifres****, The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*

**Hymn:** VU 135, “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

**The Word of God Proclaimed**

**Prayer of Illumination:**

God, give us life-giving breath. May we receive the power of the Holy Spirit as we breathe in the Word of God. Jesus' Cross was a harsh reality, and his death was a tragic story. However, we believe that neither Jesus’ story nor our story is the end. Bring us the hope of resurrection beyond his way of the Holy Cross. Amen.

**Ministry of Music: “Once Upon A Tree”**

**The Reproaches of Good Friday**

**1) Scripture Reading: John 18:1–8 – Wayne Mullin**

Choir response: “Were you there when he knelt and prayed to God?” (*Tune: VU # 144 “Were You There”- Sing only the first and second lines*)

**“Judas Iscariot tells his story.”**

**2) Scripture Reading: John 18:15–18, 25–27 – Rev. Ji**

Choir response: “Were you there when his friends betrayed and fled?”

**“Peter tells his story.”**

**3) Scripture Reading: John 18:12–14, 19–23 – Merle Milson**

Choir response: “Were you there when they scorned and mocked our Lord?”

**“Caiaphas, the High Priest, tells his story.”**

**4) Scripture Reading: John 18:28—19:6 – John Bosma**

Choir response: “Were you there when they led him to the cross?”

**“Pilate tells his story.”**

5**) Scripture Reading: John 19:16–18, Luke 23:39–43 – Bill Gunn**

Choir response: “Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

**“The criminal tells his story.”**

**6) Scripture Reading: John 19:25–27 – Pat Boucher**

Choir response: “Were you there when the women watched and wept?”

“**Mary tells her story.”**

**7) Scripture Reading: John 19:38–42 – Holly Daley**

Choir response: “Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?”

**“A 21st-century Christian tells their story.”**

**We Respond to God’s Word**

**Hymn:** VU #144 “Were You There”

**Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer:**

Endless Giving God,

we gather today to remember the gift you gave the world.

You love us so much that you allowed us

and this world to crucify you.

But we know that the story does not end on Good Friday.

That is why we dare to offer ourselves in repentance.

Help us stay in the eternal covenant of love again.

Give us the grace to revive our devotion and sharing.

Awaken our souls to share new hope and love again.

Change our hearts softly again

so that we can shed tears and embrace the pain

with the world and our neighbours.

Transform us with the grace of the cross,

the hope and love of resurrection.

*Good Friday 2022, The Whole People of God*

**WE GO OUT AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**\* Sung Lord’s Prayer:** VU #959

As Jesus taught, let us pray with one heart and one mind.

(*music plays*)

**\*** **Extinguish the Christ candle:**

O Righteous One,

our saviour and ruler who was laid low in the earth of a garden,

we stand in awe of you.

We kneel before you, waiting beside your tomb,

knowing that God’s plans for new life bear fruit through you,

O Crucified One, who entered death to give us life.

Jesus, friend and brother, have mercy on us.

The light of the world has been snuffed out.

**We mourn his death.**

**We mourn the powers on earth and our unbelief**

**crucified Christ.**

**We mourn that pain and tears on the cross continue**

**even in this day and age.**

**Lord, have mercy on us in the darkness.**

*(The Christ candle is extinguished.)*

***Rebecca J. Kruger Gaudino,*** *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*

**\*Silent Departure:**

Keep in silence.

Feel free to stay at the sanctuary to meditate or leave.

You can place your offering on the plate if you wish.

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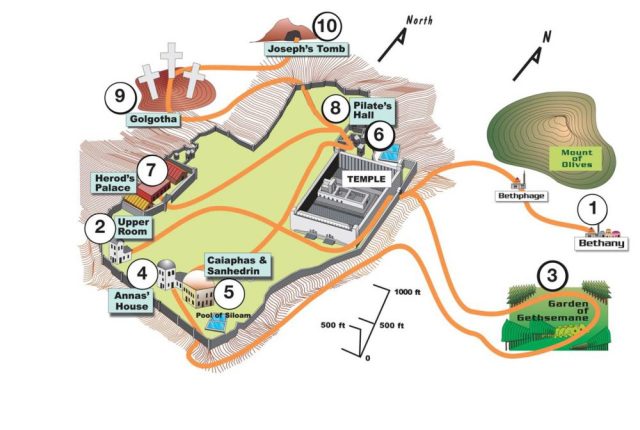
**Online St. Andrew’s United Church**

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**A Week of Jesus Christ**



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| **Friday** | Jesus arrives in Bethany and is anointed by Mary and visited be the crowds | John 12:1-11 |
| **Sunday**  **(Palm Sunday)** | Jesus Enters Jerusalem and weeps over Jerusalem. View the temple then return to Bethany | Luke 19:28-44  Mark 11:11 |
| **Monday** | Jesus Cures the fig tree and cleanses the Temple then return to Bethany | Mark 11:12-19 |
| **Tuesday** | Jesus returns to Jerusalem and is challenged by the religious leaders, then returns to Bethany and preaches his final public sermon known as the Olivet Discourse. | Matthew 21-25 |
| **Wednesday** | Jesus returns to Jerusalem and teaches in the Temple.  The religious leader begins a plot to kill Jesus | Luke 21:37-22:6 |
| **Thursday** | Jesus eats Passover meal with His disciples, preaches his last message to them, then head to the Garden of Gethsemane for a night of prayer | Matthew 26:20-35  John 13:1-17:26  Matthew 26:36-46 |
| **Friday** | Jesus was arrested in the early am.  He was questioned and condemned by the Jews, denied by Peter, questioned by Pilate then Herod and then Pilate again, and sentenced to death.  He was tortured, mocked and crucified. Upon his death the veil of temple was torn in two. He was buried in a borrowed tomb | Matthew 26-27  Mark 14:43-15  Luke 22:47-23:54,  John 18-19 |

**Good Friday**

****The question is often asked, “Why good?”

* “Good” may refer to the great good God was able to accomplish in bringing to life the Christ
* from the perspective of what humans did, it truly was “bad” Friday, but from the post-resurrection perspective of what God did, it can be perceived as “good”
* linguistically, it represents a vowel shift from an older form of “God’s Friday.” The change from God’s Friday to Good Friday would parallel the one from “God be wi’ ye” to “goodbye.”

**Easter**

* expressed by the proclamation “Christ is Risen, Alleluia”
* the date for Easter was set at the Council of Nicea in 325CE
* the annual date for Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon of the Spring equinox
* the early Church celebrated the resurrection of Christ every Sunday
* early Christians who were also Jews worshipped in the synagogue on the Sabbath (seventh day) and then met in homes, or other places, on Sunday (the first day) to celebrate the risen Christ by breaking bread, prayers, and hymns
* ****it is the first day of the Easter Season which lasts for fifty days until Pentecost. This includes the forty days in which Jesus appeared to his disciples after the resurrection and continues through to the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit and the church was born.