

Good Friday



St. John's United Church of Christ

prayers ■ promises ■ possibilities

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04.07.23

St. John's United Church of Christ

Good Friday April 7, 2023
What Wondrous Love is This?
Tennebrae

Prelude

Preparation

*Litany for Good Friday

ONE: O God, we return today to remember the love and sacrifice of Jesus, and to contemplate what it means to have faith in the midst of suffering, loss, and injustice. Even in this story of broken lives and broken hearts, we trust in your presence, your powers, and your ways. We trust that in the midst of suffering:

ALL: You, O God, are comfort.

ONE: When injustice appears to triumph, and justice appears to have been crucified,

ALL: You, O God, are the one who calls us to believe the good news and act with justice.

ONE: When we stray from the path on which you lead us,

ALL: You, O God, offer grace that invites us back to your ways.

ONE: When night surrounds us, and we are fearful and lacking vision,

ALL: You, O God, are the light that finds, surrounds and guides us.

ONE: When the world groans under the bonds of oppression, violence and indifference,

ALL: You, O God, empower your people to offer the balm of courageous compassion and peacemaking.

ONE: When the curtain has ripped, the thunder has rolled, and the world appears to have lost its Savior,

ALL: You, O God, are hope for victory! We wait for you. Amen.

*Hymn:

"Lift High the Cross"

#108 verse 1

**Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

**Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine.**

**Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

The Word

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.
(John 15:13)

Prayer: (*in unison*)

Gracious Lord, your word says that you are love. Help us to see this love in the suffering and death of your Son for sinners. Move us to respond to this love in faith. Grant that the love we receive from you would shine from us in acts of selfless love to others. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *“Go to Dark Gethsemane”* #196 verse1

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter’s power;
your Redeemer’s conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Part I
Wondrous Example of Love

The Garden of Gethsemane

***HYMN:** *“What Wondrous Love Is This”* #200 vs 1

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

Part II
Wondrous Look of Love

At the Home of the High Priest

HYMN: *“What Wondrous Love is This?”* #200 vs 2

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down;
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

Part III
Wondrous Silence of Love

In The Court of the Governor

HYMN: *“What Wondrous Love is This?”* #200 vs 3

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing!
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

Part IV
At Calvary –
Wondrous words of Love

The First Wondrous Word of Love

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

The Second Wondrous Word of Love

“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise”

The Third Wondrous Word of Love

“Dear woman, here is your son. “Behold, here is your mother.

The Fourth Wondrous Word of Love

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Music:

“Pie Jesus”
(Merciful Jesus)

Meher Arora

The Fifth Wondrous Word of Love

“I thirst”

The Sixth Wondrous Word of Love

“It is finished!”

The Seventh Wondrous Word of Love

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit”

Part V
Conclusion

Music

“Were You There?”

Meher Arora

Leave quietly.

Preaching:	Pastor Lisa Hart
Director of Music Ministry:	Ruth Notch
Soloist:	Meher Arora
Liturgist:	Rev. Dr. Richard Brandon
Usher:	Larry Sontag

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Join Us
4/9/23 Easter Morning
10 am Celebration of the Resurrection!
11 am Easter Egg Hunt