

CAMBRIDGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

Lindsay, Ontario, Canada
April 18, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

Good Friday

Minister: Rev. Sharon Campbell-Rayment
Director of Music: Erwin Stroobach
Audio-Visual: Walt Radda

Today's service is being live streamed
10 minutes before worship
begins and ending after the postlude and announcements.

Order of Service

VU – Voices United hymn book MV – More Voices
Bold Print indicates congregational response
* You may choose to stand or sit

Prelude: *What Wondrous Love Is This* Albert Zabel

Welcome

We welcome all in the name of the Christ.
All who are here in this place of blessing, this holy sanctuary.
And welcome to all who are joining us on YouTube and Livestream.

Extinguishing of the Final Candle

Never doubt the meaning of Lent. It happened a long time ago, but it happened.

Jesus walked on this earth.

He practiced a ministry of radical inclusivity, drawing to himself all the despised and rejected members of society.

He lived what he taught: a life of justice and love, of profound compassion for all people.

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He lived a life acceptable to you, O God. His death terrifies us, because it reveals how committed the world is to its own way, and the price the world exacts from those whose commitment is to you.

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of all people in the world who suffer in body, in mind or in spirit.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray:

What we contemplate this night is beyond words, beyond understanding. May the Holy Spirit intercede for us and give voice to what, for us, is inexpressible. Amen.

Hymn: *Don't Be Afraid* MV 90 (remain seated)

Call to Gather

"What is Good Friday and why are we gathered here?"

It is a day of contradictions, to be sure.

Now is the "acceptable time" of which Paul spoke of on Ash Wednesday.

We are always dying and rising to new life, but especially on this day.

We are all the actors in this story: the people shouting "Crucify him!"

and the women who stand vigil at the foot of the cross, the soldiers who cast lots for his tunic

and Joseph of Arimathea who gave his own tomb for Jesus' burial.

Today we lament the pain of this world and we face our complicity in that pain;

We seek to be witnesses to—and participants in—God's power over the evil of this world.

Now is the acceptable time – the time when Christ’s death sets us free to choose life.

Today is God’s Friday. We come in worship.

Hymn: *Were You There* VU 144, vs. 1-3

Opening Prayer

Holy God, on this dark day we walk with Jesus through the suffering of his last hours.

On this dark day we walk with you into the darkest places of our world and our lives.

Bearing your cross you lead us to discover that even in the darkest places your love is ever present.

Remind us again and again, of the power of that love which gave everything, even life itself, to draw us into new life.

Give us courage to walk this path.

Amen.

The Funeral of Jesus

Hymn: *O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile* VU 136

Hymn: *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* VU 149

Ministry of Music: *Ah, Holy Jesus*

Johann Heerman & Howard Helvey

Prayer for the day

Holy Presence, startle us.

Jolt us out of our complacency. We have relived the horrifying events of this day that we call “good.”

We have experienced your child’s brokenness on that ghastly instrument of torture.

But are we inattentive to the brokenness in today’s world?

Do we deny its existence and turn away?

Open our spirits, Passionate God, to what’s in front of us.

Motivate us to become instruments of the justice and love Jesus advocated for.

We are blessed with the benefit of recollecting the story of Jesus’ last days. We are assured that our paralyzing grief on this day will give way to fulfillment of Jesus’ promise that death will be defeated.

Stay with us through the despair and deep emotional shadows of these days.

May we rest gently in these emotions, even as our hearts anticipate a world of joy and possibility on Easter Day.

We bind these prayers together with the prayer your child taught us, but may we not just recite the words.

May we passionately articulate what we ask of you and acknowledge with certainty the glory that is truly yours.

And so, in the name of the Crucified One, we pray,
“Our Father...”

Commissioning

As we leave this place in silence, we

Praise God for the gift of worship.

Praise God in advance for being with us through whatever will unfold until we meet again.

Praise God that God is with us each day.

We go with hope.

We go with patience.

We go with God.

Amen.

/over.....

Hymn: *What Wondrous Love Is This* VU 147

As we remain in the silent cave of darkness with Jesus in the tomb over these next two days, may we abide with him, reflect upon the parables and stories he has shared, and align with his message of love and unwavering hope.

Silence

Please leave the Sanctuary in silence.

Please return on Easter Sunday morning to hear the Good News!



**Liturgy: The Gathering Worship Complete Set of Prayers for Worship |
ASH WEDNESDAY TO THE LAST SUNDAY OF EASTER**