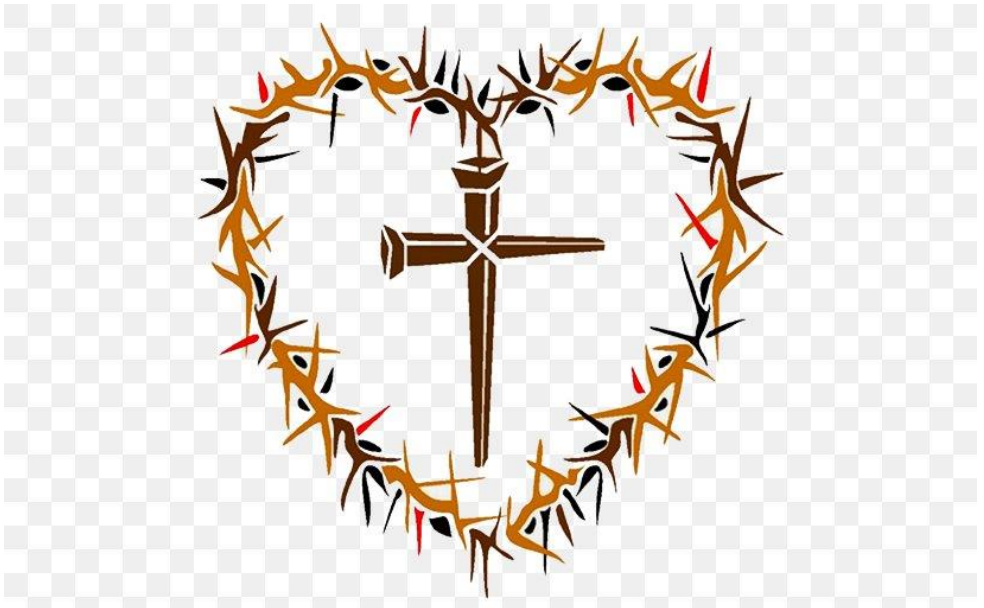


PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY GATHERING

16th March, 2022

Topic:

A Good Friday Meditation



ORDER FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING

Welcome and Introduction

One: For Easter which reminds us that love is our greatest challenge,

All: We light the flame.

One: For gathering tonight in this sacred space,

All: We light the flame.

One: For the opportunity to be together as a community,
to remember the past,
to consider our future,
to be alive in our present...

All: We light the flame.

The candle is lit

ACKNOWLEDGING

Acknowledging country

The Ancient of Days breathed life into this Land and Her Peoples. From time beyond our reckoning the Kurna people have blessed this place through their law and customs.

We pay our respects to their Elders and Leaders, past and present, and pray for the future of their communities. May we walk gently and respectfully on this Land.

Acknowledging diversity

We recognise our diversity, and in terms of the Uniting Church's Safe Church Policy, we acknowledge that this is a safe place in which all people can worship together, irrespective of race, creed, age, ability, sexuality, cultural background, or any other distinguishing feature.

CELEBRATING

Celebration of Life

One: We live in a planet filled with the presentness of God.

All: A presentness quivering in the forests, vibrating in the land, pulsating in the wilderness, shimmering in the rivers.

One: Together this night let us sense the face of God in all creation.

All: We affirm all creation is filled with the presentness of God.

Hymn TiS 28: God is our strength and refuge

(A paraphrase of Psalm 46)

EXPLORING

A Good Friday meditation

For Reflection

On Good Friday we can ponder all the crucifixions going on in our world through war, starvation, genocide and addictions.

Silence

We do not need to celebrate divine violence on Good Friday or any occasion, but we live in a world characterised by violence – violence against the Earth; violence to children and adults, especially women; violence through war and political unrest; and violence resulting from the huge disparity in the wealth of peoples of this earth.

Silence

Two thousand years later we are still crucifying prophets who announce good news for the poor, liberation for the oppressed, and life for the lifeless.

Silence

Reading: Luke 23:1-12

Hymn: He was a threat

Tune : Maryton TiS 601

The leaders of his day were right;
He was a threat. He had to die.
He caused unrest, but did not fight!
He was a threat. He had to die.

He criticised all unjust law;
“Don’t act corruptly.” was his cry;
Condemned the rich who wanted more;
He was a threat. He had to die.

He spoke against abuse of might;
Yet Romans used it to deny
Justice and truth; the sword was right;
He was a threat. He had to die.

He taught a different way to live;
He would not teach, ‘An eye for eye.’
He practised love; he said “Forgive.”
He was a threat. He had to die.

It was not God who planned his death;
He was a threat! He had to die!
Evil still says with every breath,
“He is a threat! He has to die!”

George Stuart Used with permission

Presentation

A Good Friday meditation

For discussion

1. Do you agree with the assertions of the writer of the meditation?
2. Should the church still be teaching the notion of sacrifice for sins?
 - if yes, explain why you think so
 - if no, what alternative narrative would you propose?

AFFIRMING

One: We bring our laments as we share our concerns:

We lament all who suffer:

For the victims of war and conflict, particularly at this time in the Ukraine;

for the hungry and the homeless;

for the deprived and the oppressed;

for the sick, the wounded, and the handicapped;

for those in loneliness and in fear;

for those in confusion, doubt, and despair;

for the sorrowful and bereaved;

for prisoners.

Where we are able, may we be stirred to minister to them.... *(Pause)*

All: The world is ours for a time, may we be encouraged to know it;

the human mind is ours for a time, may we be encouraged to explore it and expand it;

the human heart beats out its number for a time, may we be encouraged to be fully alive in our time.

May peace be with us and our world this day. Amen

Hymn: When Jesus died so long ago

Tune Horsley TiS 350

When Jesus died so long ago
And shared our human fate,
He did not curse his human foe
Nor utter words of hate.

He prayed for those who drove each nail;
He comforted a thief;
He struggled to let love prevail;
He battled unbelief.

He cried not to be left alone;
His friends had run away;
The torture of his flesh and bone –
We can but watch and pray.

And as we watch and see his pain
We ask, “What can we pray?
“Is love, compassion all in vain?
Has violence won the day?”

He breathes his last; he bows his head;
This is the end – but NO!
The powers that be – they think he’s dead;
They are so wrong; we know!

His love survives and still lives on;
It lives in you and me;
Oppressed, abused but never gone;
Love lives eternally.

George Stuart Used with permission.

SCATTERING

Words of Blessing

One: Walk softly.
Speak truthfully.
Love gently.
Breathe deeply.
Live wisely.
Go in peace.

All: Amen. May it be so!

The candle is extinguished

Notices

