

Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council
Good Friday Walk with the Cross
April 2nd, 2021

Theme: Fear not, for I am with you; I will strengthen you, I will help you.
(from Isaiah 41:10, English Standard Version)

(Note: the following liturgy is similar to the one in WAICC's 2021 Good Friday video but not exactly the same.)

Opening Words: The cross of Jesus' crucifixion is a universal symbol of human suffering. Traditionally, Christians have gathered on Good Friday to remember the death of Jesus. This year, representatives of the Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council and member organizations will come together virtually to remember the suffering and fear that exists all around us especially during COVID-19 and to pray for compassion, courage and peace for our world. We invite those within and beyond our community to watch this video as we Walk with Jesus and the Cross. ALL ARE WELCOME.

Song (Taize Community, 1991; Psalm 103:1)
Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

1. St Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, Corpus Christi Parish

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

John 18: 1-5b – The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' (New Revised Standard Version – NRSV)

Silent Reflection

Isaiah 41:10 - Do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be alarmed, for I am your God. I give you strength, truly I help you, truly I hold you firm with my saving right hand.
(Catholic Online)

Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, when confronted by a pandemic I'm tempted to lay blame for its origin and spread. I also feel angry when it seems like people aren't taking it seriously enough.

Reflecting on your passion, may I be non-judgmental. We ask this in your name.
Amen.*

Song (Taize Community, 1982)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

2. St. John's Anglican Church, Parish of Horton

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

John 18: 12-14; 19-24 – Jesus before the High Priest

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, 'I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.' When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, 'Is that how you answer the high priest?' Jesus answered, 'If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?' Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. (NRSV)

Silent Reflection

Isaiah 41:10 - Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.
(NRSV)

Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we too have turned from you again and again, yet you continue to enfold us with your love. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Song (Taize Community, 1982)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

3. L'Arche Homefires

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

John 18: 15-18; 25-27 – Peter Denies Jesus

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at

the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?' He said, 'I am not.' Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He denied it and said, 'I am not.' One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, 'Did I not see you in the garden with him?' Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed. (NRSV)

Silent Reflection

Isaiah 41:10 - Do not be afraid--I am with you! I am your God--let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you. (Good News Translation)

Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times we have betrayed you by failing to see you in the faces of those around us. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Song (Taize Community, 1982)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

4. Orchard Valley United Church

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

John 18:28b,29-38a - Jesus before Pilate

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?'

They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.'

Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.'

The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' (This was to fulfil what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?'

Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?'

Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.'

Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?'

Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'
Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?' (NRSV)

Silent Reflection

Isaiah 41:10 - Don't fear, because I am with you; don't be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will surely help you; I will hold you with my righteous strong hand. (Common English Version)

Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." Help us to stand firm when faced with injustice and oppression, to be fervent in our stance for truth. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Song (Taize Community, 1982)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

5. Food Bank Management Committee / Clergy Committee

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

John 18:38b-19:3 - Jesus is Flogged and Tormented

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. (NRSV)

Silent Reflection

Isaiah 41:10 - Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. (King James Version)

Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you know what it feels like when someone is being mean or unkind, and so do we. It hurts. Give us the courage to reach out to others when we need help. Remind us that you are always there to hear us and to help us, no matter what we face. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Song (Taize Community, 1982)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

6. Port Williams Baptist Church

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

John 19:4-11 - Pilate Questions Jesus Again

Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.'

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!'

When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!'

Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.'

The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?'

But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?'

Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' (NRSV)

Silent Reflection

Isaiah 41:10 - Thou shalt not fear, for I am with thee: thou shalt not look around for help for I thy God will strengthen thee; also I helped thee; also I held thee up with the right hand of my justice. (Smith's Literal Translation)

Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, open our ears and our hearts so that we may hear the cries of the poor and defend the displaced, the vulnerable, and innocent. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Song (Taize Community, 1982)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

7. Wolfville Baptist Church

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

John 19:12-16a - Jesus Sentenced to Death

From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.' When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. (NRSV)

Silent Reflection

Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not, for I am with you, I am your God, be not dismayed; I will strengthen, I will support you, I will uphold you with my trusty hand. (The Moffatt Bible)

Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, help us to hear your voice in the midst of our busy lives where there are so many other competing voices. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Song (Taize Community, 1982)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

8. Manning Memorial Chapel

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

John 19: 16b-18; 23-27 - The Crucifixion of Jesus

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.'

This was to fulfil what the scripture says,

'They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.'

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

(NRSV)

Silent Reflection

Isaiah 41:10 - Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you. (The Message Bible)

Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, one of your final acts on the cross was to commend your mother and your friend into each other's care. Give compassion and strength to all who respond to the needs of others. May they treat each person with dignity and respect, seeing your face in theirs. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Song (Taize Community, 1982)

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

9. Annapolis Valley Quaker Meeting

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you. Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

John 19: 28-30 – Jesus Dies

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (NRSV)

Silent Reflection

Isaiah 41:10 - Fear not; for I am with thee: wander not; for I am thy God, who have strengthened thee; and I have helped thee, and have established thee with my just right hand. (Brenton's Septuagint Translation)

Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, by your death on the cross you have opened for us the gates of mercy and truth that we might enter through them.
We ask this in your name. Amen.

Song (Taize Community, 1991; Psalm 103:1)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.

Closing Words: As we come to the end of our time together reflecting on Jesus' death, we invite you to continue to remember the suffering and fear all around us and perhaps

within us as we wait and watch for Easter Sunday and the promise of new life. May we continue to pray for compassion and courage as we remember Jesus stood up for us and calls us to do the same. May we hear one another's stories, bear one another's burdens, heed God's cry for justice, speak against misuses of power and contemplate what truth is all while being ever mindful of Jesus working in each of us to bring peace to the world.

Closing Prayer: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, together we have followed you on the way of the cross. You are abounding in love to all who call upon you. You hear the cry of those in need. While keeping our distance from each other, let us find ways to give support to those who need it. We pray for those whose incomes and livelihoods are threatened, for those who are isolated and lonely, for the caregivers and front-line workers who are so at risk, for those who are grieving loved ones lost to COVID. Remind us each time we wash our hands, that in our baptism you call us to let go of our fears and live in love, joy, peace and hope. We ask this in your name. Amen.**

Blessing: Let us end with these words from Romans 8:38-39: "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Amen.

Ubi Caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.
(Where there is charity and love, God is there.)

Best wishes to all for a safe and hopeful Easter!

*First Station Prayer from "From Covid to Calvary: Reflections on the Stations of the Cross during the Covid-19 Pandemic" by Alice Matisz, found at <https://www.allsaintslethbridge.org/covid-to-calvary.html>

**Closing Prayer adapted version of a prayer from the Catholic Health Association of the United States, found at [https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/in-days-of-uncertainty-\(coronavirus\)](https://www.chausa.org/prayers/cha-prayer-library/prayer/in-days-of-uncertainty-(coronavirus))