

others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one." The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine and saying, "If you really are the king of the Jewish people, save yourself." Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read "This is the king of the Jewish people." One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you've also been sentenced to die? 41 We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise."

Silence

HYMN: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross VU #149

THE FIFTH STEP: Luke 23: 44 – 48 *Jesus dies* read by Marilyn Antkiw
The Death of Jesus

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said, "Surely this was a righteous man." When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away.

THE CHRIST CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

HYMN: Where You There (vs 1 and 2) VU #144

THE SIXTH STEP: We go from this place to watch and wait

The service is ended.....Please drop your nail at the foot of the cross when you are ready, on your way out. Leave your pain and suffering there.

Our service continues on Easter Sunday when we will take:

THE SEVENTH STEP

Worship Notes

This service was written by David Robertson and Susan Lukey; Gathering L/E 2016 pg 66; adapted; used with permission.

**WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
GOOD FRIDAY – April 3, 2026**

**Rev. Kellie McComb
Music: Chris Savory**

WALKING TO THE CROSS



PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

WORDS OF WELCOME

Luke 22: 39 – 46 *Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives* read by Brian Holden
He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

HYMN: Beneath the Cross of Jesus VU #135

A CALL TO WALK

It is hard to walk with Jesus today.

It is hard to see our friend and teacher arrested.

It is confusing to see Jesus bound and beaten.

It is overwhelming to see the hatred and the anger that people have for this man we love and we love and trust.

It is time for us to trust that God is at work within this devastating situation.

Jesus, we are walking with you today.

JESUS IS IN OUR MIDST (*Lighting of the Christ Candle*)

PRAYER

We walk toward the cross today, not knowing, O God, why we are here, not even wanting to be here.

Yet we move, step by step, toward the cross, trusting in your love that is greater than anything we can imagine,

trusting that you are working in Jesus' life even as we watch his life end,

trusting that life is not ended by death,

trusting that in the sorrow and tragedies of our lives, you are walking with us and working within us.

We walk with Jesus toward the cross today, knowing that you, O God, are walking with us. Amen

CARRYING A NAIL (representing pain, suffering)

What does this nail hold for you? Pain you have caused another? Suffering you have experienced? Something personal? Pain from community? Suffering from the world? Reflect in the silence what this Nail holds for you today.....

HYMN: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

VU #357

THE FIRST STEP: Luke 2: 47 – 52 *Jesus is arrested* read by Wayne Kennington

And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Silence

MUSIC MINISTRY: Beautiful One (from the Cantata "The Beautiful Christ")

THE SECOND STEP: Luke 22: 54 – 62 *Peter denies knowing* read by Diane Holden

After they arrested Jesus, they led him away and brought him to the high priest's house. Peter followed from a distance. When they lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

Then a servant woman saw him sitting in the firelight. She stared at him and said, "This man was with him too." But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I don't know him!" A little while later, someone else saw him and said, "You are one of them too." But Peter said, "Man, I'm not!"

An hour or so later, someone else insisted, "This man must have been with him, because he is a Galilean too." Peter responded, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!" At that very moment, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered the Lord's words: "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.

Silence

HYMN: When We Are Tempted to Deny Your Son

VU #119

THE THIRD STEP: Luke 23: 1 - 5, 13 – 25 *Jesus before Pilate* read by Cori Angus

The whole assembly got up and led Jesus to Pilate and began to accuse him. They said, "We have found this man misleading our people, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming that he is the Christ, a king." Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jewish people?" Jesus replied, "That's what you say." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no legal basis for action against this man." But they objected strenuously, saying, "He agitates the people with his teaching throughout Judea—starting from Galilee all the way here."

Jesus and Barabbas

Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them, "You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in this man's conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He's done nothing that deserves death. Therefore, I'll have him whipped, then let him go." But with one voice they shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us." (Barabbas had been thrown into prison because of a riot that had occurred in the city, and for murder.) Pilate addressed them again because he wanted to release Jesus. They kept shouting out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" For the third time, Pilate said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done? I've found no legal basis for the death penalty in his case. Therefore, I will have him whipped, then let him go." But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

Silence

HYMN: Go to Dark Gethsemane

VU #133

THE FOURTH STEP:

Luke 23: 26 - 27, 32 – 43 *Jesus is placed on the cross* read by Janet Snow
On the way to the cross

As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside. They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women, who were mourning and wailing for him.

Jesus on the cross

They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing. The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, "He saved