

LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE Pioneer, Hillside – 10:30 a.m.

March 29, 2024 GOOD FRIDAY

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Welcome and Opening Sentences

Welcome everyone. This morning we gather to remember and make renewed meaning around the state execution and crucifixion of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We share this story with Christians down through the ages and all over the world. We are in solidarity with the people all around the world who suffer the violence of war and the terror of climate extremes . We remember that even in the darkest times God is with us. We are not alone.

The service will proceed without announcement. At the end of the service we end on a positive note—never forgetting that we are people of the res-

urrection—knowing deep in our hearts that God has raised Jesus into life in the Spirit from where he is with us and leads us and accompanies us through even the darkest times.

Let us join together in this time of sacred remembrance.

Call to Worship (Singing Bowl)

Today is a day of shadows and gloom. Today is a day of destruction and loss. **Today is a day when we face the reality of Jesus' death.** Today is a day of commitment lived, and of faith fulfilled. **Today is a day of pain acknowledged and of strength revealed.** Today is a day when we face the worst and honour the best

We gather to remember. .

Hymn: Were You There When They Crucified My Lord VU#144

- Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

4 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Were you there when they pierced him in the side? Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Opening Prayer:

We open ourselves to the story of the Crucified and Risen One, arms stretched out across chasms of fear, pulling us into his own broken body, close to his pierced heart, so that this planet of pain may one day claim as its own the love flowing out from that sacred, broken heart. Amen

Readings with Images for Stations of the Cross Adapted from Padraig O Tuama. Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community

1 – Jesus is condemned to death

Prayer: God of the accused and the accusing, who made the mouths, the ears and the hearts of all in conflict. May we turn ourselves towards that which must be heard, because there we will hear your voice. Amen.

2 - Jesus takes up the cross

Burdened One, who bore the weight of wood on torn shoulders, We pray for the torn and the burdened, that they may be held together by guts and goodness. Because you were held together by guts and goodness. Amen.

3 – Jesus falls for the first time

Son of the soil, whose body was – like ours – from dust, and who fell – like we fall – to the ground. May we find you on the ground when we fall. Oh, our falling fallen brother, may we find you, so that we may inhabit our stories, our selves. Amen.

4 - Jesus meets his mother Mary

Mother of Failure, You met your son at the end, in a place beyond words, and must have felt faithless and empty and alone. We pray that we may have the grace to live with our own stories of failure, knowing that love can continue even when things end. Amen.

5 – Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross

Simon of Cyrene, stranger from afar, You were a help to an unknown man. We pray for all who help: that their help may be helpful; that their kindness may be kind. Because yours was, even though you knew you couldn't do enough. Amen

6 - Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

Veronica, your story is doubted but valuable. You did what you could even though it was very little. May we do the same even when we doubt. Amen.

7 – Jesus falls the second time

Jesus, You felt the fall when your body fell to the ground a second time. Gather all who fall. Gather all our fallings. Gather the voices. Gather the breath that's forced from our bodies. Because falling, too, has a story. Amen.

8 – Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem

Women of Jerusalem, while you mourned, Jesus saw you and spoke to you – he in his sorrow seeing you in yours. May we see each other, even when we feel unseen. Because when we see each other, we are seen ourselves. Amen.

9 – Jesus falls the third time

Jesus of the dirt, you were led to death because of how you lived. Help us live like this; walking and falling, and walking and falling, like you, in the ways of the living and the dead. Amen.

10 – Jesus is stripped

Jesus of the flesh, Naked you came from the womb and naked you were made for the cross. What was designed for indignity and exposure you held with dignity and defiance. May we do the same Because you needed it Because we need it. Amen.

11 – Jesus is nailed to the cross

Jesus of Nazareth, This cross was a torture. It only gives life because you made it hollow. Bring life to us, Jesus, especially when we are in the places of the dead. Because you brought life even to the instruments of death. Amen.

12 – Jesus dies

Jesus of the imagination, You never grew old, always a young man, and most of us grow older than you did. When lives are cut short the living question the meaning of living. May we live with meaning, even when meaning fades, making meaning so that we have something to live for. Amen.

13 – Jesus is placed in the arms of his mother

Mary, Mother of Jesus, You held the corpse of your young son – the worst of fears – in your arms, as he went where we have not yet gone. We mark this with silence and art. May we also learn from fear, because fear won't save us from anything. Amen

14 - Jesus's corpse is placed in the tomb

Jesus of the unexpected, for at least some of your life this was not how you imagined its end. Yet even at the end, you kept steady in your conviction. Jesus, keep us steady. Jesus, keep us steady. Because, Jesus, keep us steady. Amen.

Hymn: They Crucified My Lord VU 141

Prayers for our World

Closing Hymn: I Choose Love

In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain, I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace. In the midst of war, I choose peace. In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score, I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise. When my world falls down, I will rise. When my world falls down, explanations can't be found, I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, I choose love. In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain, I await the sun again, I choose love.

BENEDICTION

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your hearts to love May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet And may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen



Please join us on Easter Sunday to Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

March 31 Easter sunrise service 7 am Easter Breakfast 7:30am Pioneer Memorial Hillside

March 31 10:30 am.

Festive Easter Worship Service

- April 7 Guest preacher: Ms. Lorna Bywater
- April 10 Leadership Team Mtg 1 p.m.Stewart April 10 &13 BLOOMING VIOLET @ 2 p.m. April 11 &12 BLOOMING VIOLET @ 7p.m.
- April 14 10:30 am. Easter 2 Worship and Annual Meeting followed by barbecue lunch
- April 21 Earth Sunday Worship 10:30