

# WILMOT UNITED CHURCH

March 29, 2013

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation..

At the points marked \* - those who are able are invited to stand..

This service was adapted from one written by Keltie van Binsbergen of Sambro Jollimore Pastoral Charge. NS

## SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

**Prelude:** What Wondrous Love Is This (Wood)

**Seven candles are lit**

**Welcome and Introduction to this service**

**Choral Introit:** Jesus, Remember Me VU #148

**Scripture:** Rev. Cliff Moase

Luke 22: 66-71, 23:1, 13-27

Luke 23: 32-34

**Reflection** Darrell Mesheau

It's true, they do not know what they are doing. Do any of us caught up in the events of this day truly know what we are doing? This isn't how I imagined things would end. I knew I wasn't the warrior messiah some wanted me to be, but I did hope I could bring about some change for my people, some measure of justice, some willingness to love. And now it's all over. Did I accomplish anything? How can the things I taught, the things I believed in so strongly, ever be remembered when I die a criminal's death? It hurts so much. I never imagined such pain. Father, please help me.

## Silence

**Hymn:** O Sacred Head (verses 1 and 2)

VU #145

## Candle 1 extinguished

**Scripture:**

Anne Colpitts

Luke 23: 35-43

## Reflection

Darrell Mesheau

Someone believes in me. What a difference that makes in the midst of all this pain and abuse. He believes in me even though I am hanging on a cross just like him. I wonder what his crime was. Whatever he did, I hope you forgive him, my father, for he has shown himself to have great love. While I hung here feeling sorry for myself, not able to see beyond my own pain and suffering, he showed compassion for me. He wants me to remember him and indeed I will, for he has shown me that I must think beyond myself. There is a reason I am here; I must keep that in mind. Even if I am not sure I understand that reason myself, you do, and with that I must be satisfied.

## Silence

**Anthem:** Jesus, In Your Dying Woes

(Mengel)

## Candle 2 extinguished

**Scripture:**

Amy Foster

John 19: 25-27

## **Reflection**

Darrell Mesheau

There are others who believe in me too. These women, so faithful, right to the end. I didn't mean to let them down. Especially my mother. It has been so hard on her. First seeing me pushed from my own village, then hearing me preach in ways that angered the authorities. It confused her. She knew I was born to do something special, to bring great change to the world, but she didn't think it would involve so much defiance. And yet I think she and I both knew that I was on a path that would lead to death. She told me once that when I was presented in the Temple as an infant, Simeon, that devout, holy man, said that I would cause a sword to pierce her soul. I swore it would never happen, but today his words are fulfilled. I do not want her to be left alone with this pain. John is as close to me as a brother. He can share her suffering and together they can be healed. Maybe they and the others, like Mary Magdalene and Peter, can keep the ideas I taught them alive. If they can teach and live the things you taught me, Father, then perhaps I won't have died in vain.

## **Silence**

**Hymn:** What Wondrous Love Is This

VU #147

## **Candle 3 extinguished**

**Scripture:**

Guy Vezina

Matthew 27: 45-47

## Reflection

Darrell Mesheau

I am alone. I am so alone. My disciples have deserted me. The women have been chased by the soldiers from the foot of the cross. And now it feels that even God has forsaken me. It is so dark, so cold. My life has meant nothing. I was a fool to think that I was someone special, that God had called me to bring about change in the world. Everything I worked for is destroyed. I thought I was called to teach of God's love, but I was wrong. God has abandoned me. I am nothing.

## Silence

**Hymn:**

Why Has God Forsaken Me

VU #154

## Candle 4 extinguished

**Scripture:**

Carlinda Daigle

John 19: 28-29

## Reflection

Darrell Mesheau

It is only sour wine that they gave me, and yet somehow it revives my soul just a little. I am reminded of the Samaritan woman I met by the well. I told her that I could give her living water. She believed me and her life was changed. Do I not believe in the very promises I made to others about God's love? It is only sour wine, and yet somehow it brings me your living water, O God. Suddenly I know that I am not alone, that you are here with me, that you are here in me. I don't know if you planned for me to die this way, but I am sure that you will make good things come of it. I have promised people that you forgive their sins. If the sacrifice of my life can help bring that forgiveness to others, then it is worth it. Forgive me my doubt, Father. Give me strength to face these last hours with dignity and love. May my sacrifice bring your forgiveness to all those in need.

## Silence

**Organ Solo:**

Lamb of God

(Burton)

Organist: Virginia Leiter

## **Candle 5 extinguished**

**Scripture:**

Neil Thorne

John 19:30a

**Reflection**

Darrell Mesheau

There is nothing more I can do. I have given everything I have to give. The crowds mock me saying that I should call on Elijah to save me. The soldiers taunt me, saying that I saved others, but I cannot save myself. They do not understand what I have finally come to see, that there is no other way for it to end. The only way I could have avoided death was to stop doing what I was called to do: preach God's love and justice. It's such a simple message, but it scares some because if enough people really listen and begin to live according to my words, it will mean great change in the world. I give my life for what I believed, for what I was called to do, otherwise I would be a mockery of all I taught about sacrifice, about giving everything for God. Now I must live out my own words and die for my beliefs.

**Silence**

**Vocal Solo:**

Pie Jesu (Lord Jesus, Grant Them Eternal Rest) (Faure)

Soloist: Amber Bishop

## **Candle 6 extinguished**

**Scripture:**

Nancy Bauer

Luke 23: 44-49

## **Reflection**

Darrell Mesheau

You are here. I feel your presence surrounding me, just as I felt you so often throughout my life. You gave me courage in the desert when I thought I would die of hunger and thirst. You gave me love and compassion for the crowds even when they exhausted me. You gave me hope last night in the garden when I was overcome by despair. I give you my soul, even as it has always been yours. May others learn from my life and from my death, I pray. May they know that even as you have been with me this day, you are with them in their times of pain and suffering and sorrow. We are not alone.

## **Silence**

### **Candle 7 extinguished**

### **Leave in silence**

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### **Easter Sunday services:**

**7 am - Sunrise Service with St. Paul's United, at the river (end of Carleton Street - Pedway) - breakfast at Wilmot afterwards.**

**11 am - Worship Service - Communion**