



## **Britannia United Church**

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**Meditation:** “Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.” - Martin Luther

**Welcome:** to Britannia United Church. Our **nursery** is always available to children three years of age and younger. It is at the end of the hall by the office. **Headsets** are available for those who need assisted hearing. Please speak to our sound technician. Please join in the reading if it is **bold** and *italic*. Coffee and Tea are available at the back of the church, after the service.

## **We Gather in God’s Name**

### **Prelude**

#### **Call to Worship:**

It had to happen, you know,  
it had to happen.

and we need not be surprised to be here this morning,  
as hard as it is to be with someone who is going to die.  
God, give us strength to see it through.

The Bible gives us many reasons for this day, but  
our United Church “A Song of Faith” expresses it this way:

***So filled with the Holy Spirit was he  
that in him people experienced  
the presence of God among them.***

***We sing praise to God incarnate.***

Jesus announced the coming of God’s reign -  
a commonwealth not of domination  
but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.

He healed the sick and fed the hungry.

He forgave sins and freed those held captive  
by all manners of demonic powers.

He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender.

He preached and practiced unconditional love -

love of God, love of neighbour, love of friend, love of enemy  
and he commanded his followers to love one another

as he had loved them.

Because his witness to love was threatening,  
those exercising power sought to silence Jesus.

He suffered abandonment and betrayal,  
state-sanctioned torture and execution.  
He was crucified.

***And we who love him as best we can,  
have come to be with him at this time,  
and to hold one another in our grief.***

Our service this morning is a service of word and reflection  
as we hear John's gospel tell us the story of Good Friday.  
Come, let us Worship God.

**Hymn:** O Come and Mourn With Me Awhile

**Jesus, our Love, is crucified.**

**Opening Prayer:**

God of all our days,  
we gather on this day of sadness and triumph,  
our hearts breaking and broken by the wonder of it all.  
And you are with us.

***In our waiting and our weeping, keep us willing  
to enter fully into the mystery and pain of this day,  
for by your kindness, we will find our way through it. Amen***

**Hymn:** Were You There (144 verse 1)

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?

**Scripture Reading:** John 18:28-32, 38b-19:16

Jesus before Pilate and handed over to be crucified.

**Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 22 (Part One – 744 with refrain)

**Hymn:** My Song is Love Unknown (143)

**A Prayer for Holy Week:**

God of passionate and vulnerable love,  
whose body, broken on the cross rebukes us still:

***save us, hold us, and forgive us,  
that you as victim and victor  
might lead us from death to life;  
through Jesus, the Crucified. Amen***

**Music Offering:** Were You There - Sung by Dick Howey

**Scripture Reading:** John 19:16b-25a  
Jesus is Crucified.

**Anthem:** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

**The History of the Cross**

**Scripture Reading:** John 19:25b-27  
Jesus' love for his mother.

**An Invitation to the Cross:** (148)  
**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**Scripture Reading:** John 19:28-30  
The Death of Jesus

**Hymn:** Go to Dark Gethsemane (133)

**Prayer**

**Hymn:** Beneath the Cross of Jesus (135)

**Scripture Reading:** John 19:31-42  
The Burial of Jesus

(A time of quiet meditation.)

\* **Hymn:** We Shall Go Out With Hope of Resurrection (586)

\* **Commissioning and Benediction**

**Postlude**