

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

GOOD FRIDAY

March 29, 2024 10:30



Vision

Transforming lives through God's grace.

Mission

Inspired by the Holy Spirit,
we grow disciples of Jesus Christ
to love our neighbours and
effect social change.

Values

Belonging, Community, Compassion,
Engagement, and Service

The Rev. Dr. Jean Morris
Interim Moderator

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis
Associate Minister

The Rev. Dr. Geoffrey Simmins
Interim Minister

Matt Kallio
Music Coordinator

Please find Online Worship at:



Grace Presbyterian Church
Transforming lives through God's grace

Good Friday experienced through Jesus' voice

The goal of this Good Friday service is to awaken our own feelings and devotion so that we can experience Jesus' words as if they were directed to us. Devotional practices that imagine us in the space and place where Jesus and his disciples lived, help us experience Good Friday through our feelings, rather than just our thoughts. Some devotional sites say that the seven last words of Jesus are directly associated with terms such as Forgiveness, Salvation, Relationship, Abandonment, Distress, Triumph and Reunion. You might find these terms useful as you hear the scriptures read. The service itself will consist of music, readings, and reflections. We invite you to enter this space with deep reverence, keeping a place of silence for the suffering and deeper mystery that we remember on this day.

We are grateful to the following people who volunteered to prepare reflections on these last words.

First Word: David Turner

Second Word: Robin Tomlinson

Third Word: Richard Wilson

Fourth Word: Joanne Kellough

Fifth Word: Laurie Livingstone

Sixth Word: Elizabeth Cressman

Seventh Word: Cindy Stephenson

Order of Worship

Land Acknowledgement

In a spirit of respect and truth we honour and acknowledge that we worship on the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which includes the Siksika Nation, the Piikani Nation, the Kainai Nation, the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda Nation (including Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Bands). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta Districts 5 and 6.

Prelude Ah Holy Jesus

J.Cruger /J. Ferguson

Lighting of the Christ Candle

GATHERING

Framing Words

Call to Worship

Jake Van Pernis

Holy One, we gather to worship you
even as we hear the ragged breathing of the one carrying the cross,
even as we hear him stumble and fall.

Give us strength to hear the story once again.

Do not let us turn away from this bleak day.

Be with us in this darkness

Hymn 239 O sacred head, sore wounded

†

A Prayer of Reconciliation for Good Friday

Ever-present God, on this Good Friday,
our entire world is engulfed in shadows
as we remember the story of Jesus' death.

**We confess that many of us would rather be elsewhere
because of the story of Jesus' suffering and death hurts so much.**

It hurts to think of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

**It hurts to imagine Jesus abandoned and suffering on the cross
with only a faithful few watching him breathe his last breath.**

It hurts to watch your light overtaken by the shadows of the world.

But we must find our place in this crucifixion story and feel the pain that is there:
The pain of the world,
of faithless decisions; of betrayal; of injustice.
Jesus entered that pain out of faithfulness to you and to us,
to witness to the Truth that is Justice, Wholeness and Love.
We confess, we are afraid to enter this pain with Jesus.
Strengthen us with your courage;
offer glimpses of hope in the shadows of death;
let us know you are present with us here in this moment of pain;
now as always.

Assurance of Blessing

WE STAND AT THE CROSS AND LISTEN

The First Word: Luke 23:32-34	David Turner
Choral Response	*
The Second Word: Luke 23:39-43	Robin Tomlinson
Choral Response	*
The Third Word: John 19:25-27	Richard Wilson
Choral Response	*
The Fourth Word: Mark 15:33-36	Joanne Kellough
Hymn 237 O Come and mourn with me awhile	†

The Fifth Word: John 19:28,29

Laurie Livingstone

Choral Response

*

The Sixth Word: Luke 23:44-49

Elizabeth Cressman

Hymn 233 Were you there when they crucified my Lord

†

The Seventh Word: Luke 44:47-49

Cindy Stephenson

SENDING FORTH

Benediction and Blessing: “What Abides”

Jan Richardson

* Choral responses consist of selections from Good Friday Reproaches,
by Richard Shephard

Credits: Service adapted from <https://www.stagw.org.uk/good-friday-worship-seven-last-words-from-the-cross/> St Andrew’s and St George’s West, Edinburgh, Church of Scotland, with prayers derived from the United Church of Christ Sermon Seeds website, at: <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/good-friday-april-2/>. Blessing and Benediction by Jan Richardson from *Circle of Grace*.

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† Public Domain

Life and Work at Grace Church

www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/



Worship Services

- ◇ Sundays at 10:30 a.m. in-person and online; fellowship follows in the Family Room
- ◇ Worship recordings can be watched at anytime at www.gracechurchcalgary.com/worship/.
- ◇ The South Sudanese community meets Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel.
- ◇ The Anyuak community meets Sundays at 3:00 p.m. in the Chapel.

March 31

Easter Sunday

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis

All ages will be in Grace's Sanctuary for worship;
there will not be church school

April 7

The Rev. Jake Van Pernis



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