

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP ON APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2022.**

***Keswick & Ravenshoe Pastoral Charge***

Minister: Rev. Calin Lau                      VAM: Rev. Dianne Graves  
Music Director: Stephen Riches (KUC) & Kathy Anderson (RUC)  
Property Manager: Ralph Cox (KUC)    Office Administrator: Sandra Dickinson  
VU – Voices United Hymnbook MV – More Voices

***GOOD FRIDAY***

*(Distribute a thorn branch to everyone who enters the sanctuary)*

**Silence**

**Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

**Pass the Peace**

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Lighting of the Christ candle**                      *KUC worship committee*

We journey with Jesus into the depths of suffering and loss. With the light of these candles, may we be reminded that Creator God is with us.

**Call to Worship**

We enter the Good Friday story to taste bitterness turned to release, to touch rough planks turned to smooth linen, to smell violence turned to the blossoms of peace, to hear deafening silence turned to a solemn rest before praise, to see truth as holy imprints left on our hearts.

**The Sovereign One enfolds our bitter ways, our numb senses, our prickly fear, our mockery, our religious design and more, to transform sin into awareness, fear into hope, death into life.**

**Hymn: VU 142 Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross (v.1)**  
**(instrumental)**

**Gathering Prayer** *(in unison)*

**We gather in this community of worship, O Steady One, aware how we often live out of rhythm with your heart of love. When we realize how this is so, our hearts are like wax, melting before the truth of your word. Put the law of love on our hearts that we might hold fast to hope without wavering. Amen.**

*(Place a potted plant in front of the Communion table)*

Minister: The prophet Isaiah spoke: “The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling, a scrubby plant in a parched field. There was nothing attractive about him, nothing to cause us to take a second look. He was looked down on and passed over, a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand. One look at him and people turned away. We looked down on him, thought he was scum. But the fact is, it was our pains he carried— our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us.” (Isaiah 53: 1-5a)

*(Place a knife on the communion table)*

Reader 1: read John 18: 1-11 (Seized in the garden)

(silence)

Reader 2: read some newspaper headlines expressing the grief of violence.

**VU 144 Were You There (v.1)**

*(Place a length of rope or chain on the communion table)*

Reader 3: read John 18:12-27 (Arrest and the interrogation)

(silence)

*(snuff out all the Lent candles)*

**VU 144 Were You There (v.2)**

*(Place a crown of thorns on the communion table)*

Reader 4: read John 18: 28-19:16a (in front of Pilate)

**VU 144 Were You There (v.3)**

*(project an image of a thorn branch on the wall)*

Minister: Take the thorn branch you were given at the beginning of worship. Reflect for a moment on when you have felt hurt or humiliated. Ask God for a continued presence as you live with that hurt. Then, when you are ready, add your thorn branch to the crown of thorns on the Communion table.

*(Invite everyone to add the branches to the crown)*

Minister: When is it that you have observed someone wrongly treated or know you have wrongly treated someone? In this moment of silence, ask God for the courage to stand with those who are wrongly treated or ask for forgiveness.

*(Place a cross against the communion table)*

Reader 5: read John 19:16b-27 (crucifixion)

**VU 144 Were You There (v.4)**

Minister: They disagree about what they should place on the sign on the cross over Jesus' head. The world gives us all labels. Names are sometimes used to keep us at a distance from each other. What names or labels do you wish were never used again for you or for others you know? In this moment of silence, ask God for the wisdom to use words with care.

*(Open a jar of red wine vinegar and place it on the communion table)*

Reader 6: John 19: 28-37 (Jesus' last words and his death)

**VU 144 Were You There (v.5)**

Minister: Close your eyes. Smell the vinegar in the air. Imagine the pastiness in Jesus' mouth on the cross and the sudden bitter taste of vinegar on a sponge. Now imagine a thirst quenched. What does it feel like to have your thirst quenched? What do you thirst for with God? In this moment of silence, offer to God your wish to spend time enjoying God. Ask for a drink from the well that never runs dry. Imagine Jesus delighted to give you such a drink.

*(Place an open box of fragrant spices and a roll of gauze or linen on the communion table. Snuff out the Christ candle.)*

Reader 7: John 19: 38-42 (The burial of Jesus)

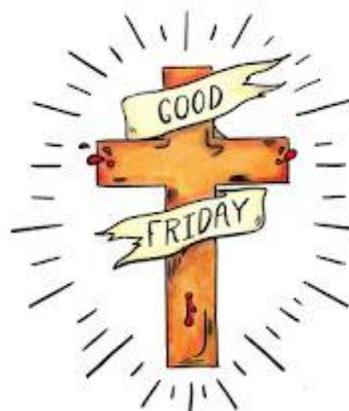
**Hymn: VU 135 Beneath the Cross of Jesus (instrumental)**

**Removal of objects** *KUC worship committee*

**Final announcement**

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*Keswick & Ravenshoe  
United Church  
Good Friday*



*April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Rev. Calin Lau*