

Take the nail you were given at the beginning of worship and hold it. As you feel it between your fingers, reflect on when you have felt hurt or humiliation. Feel God's presence with you as you live with that hurt. *(Silence)*

Now reflect for a moment when you have stood aside and observed someone wrongly treated, or when you have caused hurt and humiliations, when you have wrongly treated someone. In this moment of silence, turn toward the Spirit which can empower us to stand with those who are wrongly treated. Where you have acted wrongly, receive forgiveness and the courage to take action toward reconciliation. *(Silence)*

Choir Anthem ~ "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Approaching The Cross

On the darkest of days, we remember the death of Jesus of Nazareth. Confessing our participation today in the wrongs of this world, we come forward to the cross. We are invited to place our fears and judgements, our guilt and our worries, at the foot of the cross. We are promised forgiveness and hope. As we prepare to approach the cross with our burdens and hopes, join me in the following responsive reading:

We bring to the cross...

Our awareness of violence in ourselves and the world.

We bring to the cross...

Our fears that can sour into hate.

We bring to the cross...

Our judgement of the beliefs of others.

In the cross, we see an end,

But also a doorway to a new beginning with God.

Hymn # 436 "Abide with Me"

(When you are ready, please bring your nail forward, drop loudly in the bucket and leave the sanctuary in silence)

Good
Friday



Tecumseh United Church

~ An Affirming Congregation ~

Friday, April 3rd, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.

We are a fragrance-free environment. We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples

** Please adopt the posture that suits you best for singing/unison prayer*

Welcome and Land Acknowledgment

(The Christ candle is lit.)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.

And the Word was God.

Jesus came into our world.

He brought life, and his life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the midst of chaos, tyranny, and destruction.

On this day, his light was extinguished by the powers and principalities of this world.

We mourn his death.

We mourn that such powers crucify people again and again, even till this day.

(The Christ candle is extinguished.)

Hymn MV #90 “Don’t Be Afraid” *(sing twice)*

*Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger,
my love is stronger than your fear.*

*Don’t be afraid. My love is stronger
and I have promised, promised to be always near.*

Let us pray:

O God, we mourn when innocent people are killed.

Especially, we mourn those who are being killed because they dare to speak the truth, because they defend the environment and challenge racism, and because they seek justice and peace.

O God, who cries with us, stay with us through these times and through the loneliness of the night. Comfort us as we mourn, as we pray for a world to come, a world of blessing you promised to those who mourn.

In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

Call To Worship:

Betrayal, by those close and trusted,

And there is crucifixion.

Judgment, by the ones with power,

And there is crucifixion.

Mocking, without fear of comeback,

And there is crucifixion.

Abandonment, known by God’s anointed one,

And there is crucifixion.

We approach the crucifixion place,

But will we look away? Will we turn away?

May the courage of God’s presence be with us in our worship today.

Hymn MV #162 “Christ, within Us Hidden”

Opening Prayer:

We gather today, in the shadow of the cross. Our world is full of the same fear, anger, and hatred that drove the very nails into Jesus’ hands. How can it be that we keep failing to learn the lessons that history has presented to us over and over again? Yet we gather here because we long for something else. We long to get out from under the fear, anger, and hatred. Because of this day, we dare to believe that it is possible. So, we ask for your presence, O God, in our worship, in our doubts and fears, and in our living and hoping. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.

Jesus is Betrayed

John 18: 3-11

Choir Anthem ~ “Standing in the Shadow of the Cross”

Jesus Comes Before Pilate

John 18: 33-38

~ Ritual of Nails ~

Reading John 19: 16-19 & Luke 23: 34, 43

Forgive us for our thoughtless and hurtful actions, and our unwillingness to recognize your presence in our midst.

(Silence)

Spirit of Promise and wholeness
we reach out to you in prayer.