

Fort Langley's

Stations of the Cross

Join the churches of Fort Langley as we reflect on and celebrate the story of Jesus and Good Friday.

A collaboration of the churches of Fort Langley:

Fort Langley Community Church
Living Waters Church
The Parish of St. George - Anglican Church of Canada
United Churches of Langley
Wagner Hills Farm Society

Togetherness is a hallmark of the Christian faith.

The churches of Fort Langley aim to love and celebrate one another in an effort to reflect our oneness in Christ. We express togetherness through serving the community of Fort Langley, hosting ecumenical events, and prayer.

Our hope is that this heart of unity will help us better love and serve the beautiful village of Fort Langley and its surrounding neighbourhoods.

Honouring of First Nation Land and People

As we gather together, we honour that we are the uninvited guests on the unceded and ancestral lands of the Kwantlen, the Matsqui, the Katzie and the Semiahmoo people. We recognize that the churches and government have done harm to the land and its people. We work together to seek justice and repair the harm of over 7 generations, and seek to reconcile and heal our relationship with the land and its ancestral people.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy world-wide Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Station 1 – Jesus Prays in the Garden (Matthew 26: 36-42)

As prepared by Wagner Hills Farm Society

Recitation

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

People: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture: Matthew 26: 36-42

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

Collect

Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us your longing to be with friends while you prayed for strength.

May our own recent memories of social distancing and isolation

serve to remind us to cherish each other's company.

And after three years of being apart from each other,

we are especially grateful that you accepted the Father's plan

so we would never be separated from you.

Amen.

Response

In some traditions it is customary during a church meeting to invite the participants to turn to one another to offer a “sign of peace”. When I was a child, we used to shake hands and say, “peace be with you” to the people around us in church on Sunday morning. Over the last year we have heard it said that the world will never be same after the Covid 19 pandemic, and this can be evident even in the way we greet each other. But whatever your preference – whether with a handshake, a fist or elbow bump, or even without physical contact at all – let’s mark this first Good Friday where we can all gather for Stations of the Cross again by pausing the proceedings from the front and turning to give each other a sign of peace. You might say, “peace be with you”, or maybe even something like, “I’m so glad we’re together again!”. After that I will reconvene us from the front to give thanks to conclude this station.

Station 2 – Jesus Willingly Gives His Life (John 18:1-5a, 10-11)

As prepared by The Parish of St. George

Recitation

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
People: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture: John 18: 1-5a, 10-11

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and

weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

Collect

Holy One,
may we see your presence
in all the burdens we carry today.
Help us to share our burdens more freely,
not to be afraid to acknowledge
our fears and our pain.
May we be more aware of the crosses that others bear
and make time to alleviate their burdens.
May your face shine on each of us
through the crosses we bear.
Amen.

Response

Song: Amazing Grace

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
was blind but now I see*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come.
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.*

*When we've been here ten thousand years
bright, shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.*

Station 3 – Peter and the Disciples Forsake Jesus

(John 18:17-18, 25-27)

As prepared by Living Waters Church

Recitation

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
People: because by your holy cross you have redeemed
the world.

Scripture: John 18: 17-18, 25-27

The servant girl at the door said to Peter, "You also are not one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. So they said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it, and at once a rooster crowed.

Collect

Lord, we thank you
that in your passion
you offer forgiveness

and invite us to be with you
where hunger is no more
and death has no dominion.
May the broken bread of life
fracture our stony hearts
for the sake of your kingdom.
Amen.

Response

Song: Lord Have Mercy (Steve Merkel)

*Jesus, I've forgotten the words that You have spoken
Promises that burned within my heart have now grown dim
With a doubting heart I follow the paths of earthly wisdom
Forgive me for my unbelief, renew the fire again*

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me*

*I have built an altar where I worship things of men
I have taken journeys that have drawn me far from You
Now I am returning to Your mercies ever flowing
Pardon my transgressions, help me love You again*

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me*

*I have longed to know You and Your tender mercies
Like a river of forgiveness, ever flowing without end
I bow my heart before You in the goodness of Your
presence
Your grace forever shining like a beacon in the night*

*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy on me*

Station 4 – Jesus Before Pilate (Mark 15: 1-5, 6-15)
As prepared by Fort Langley Community Church

Recitation

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
People: because by your holy cross you have redeemed
the world.

Scripture: Matthew 27:11-23

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be

crucified!" And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

Collect

O Compassionate One,
we pray for those who cannot reach out to you.
We pray for all victims of violence;
those who suffer it and those who inflict it.
We pray especially for children, for the elderly
and for those too vulnerable to defend themselves.
May victims of cruelty and oppression
know that you are always with them.
Amen.

Response

A reading from The Golgotha Experience

Pilate knows the truth. He says so himself, "the man has done nothing to deserve death," (Luke 23:15), and he was even "anxious to set [Jesus] free," (John 19:12). His wife's plea only reiterates what he already knew. Jesus was innocent. He was faultless.

He in no way deserved punishment.

But as the crowd continued their chanting, Pilate's anxiety grew in another way. Mark 15:15 says that he was 'anxious to placate the crowd.' How often is this our response? We know something to be true in our spirit, but everyone else contradicts it. The crowd or culture shouts, screams, and clamors with 'Crucify him,' and it becomes increasingly difficult to stand against them. It is a far easier path to blend in and become one of the mob, even if we don't agree. So that is often what we do.

Jesus says in Matthew 7:13-14 , "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." Despite his own feelings, and a unique message from his wife, Pilate chose the wide path of destruction.

Station 5 – Jesus is Mocked, Beaten, Crucified and Forgives

(Luke 23:32-38)

As prepared by United Churches of Langley

Recitation

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,

People: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Scripture: Luke 23:32-38

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Collect

Stripped of everything, Oh Jesus,
you stood exposed to the jeers and contempt
of the people whom you loved.

Forgive our ignorance and unwillingness to love.
May your unconditional love
guide us to be more like you,
choosing love over hate,
forgiveness over bitterness.
Loving God, give us grace to forgive
as you have so freely forgiven us.
Amen.

Response

Song: Forgiveness (Matthew West)

*It's the hardest thing to give away
And the last thing on your mind today
It always goes to those who don't deserve
It's the opposite of how you feel
When the pain they caused is just too real
Takes everything you have to say the word*

Forgiveness, forgiveness

*It flies in the face of all your pride
It moves away the mad inside
It's always anger's own worst enemy
Even when the jury and the judge
Say you've got a right to hold a grudge
It's the whisper in your ear saying set it free*

*Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Show me how to love the unlovable
Show me how to reach the unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness*

*It'll clear the bitterness away
It can even set a prisoner free
There is no end to what its power can do
So let it go and be amazed
By what you see through eyes of grace
The prisoner that it really frees is you*

*Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Show me how to love the unlovable
Show me how to reach the unreachable
Help me now to do the impossible
Forgiveness*

*I want finally set it free
Show me how to see what your mercy sees
Help me now to give what You gave to me
Forgiveness, forgiveness
Forgiveness, forgiveness*

Station 6 – Jesus Dies and is Laid in the Tomb

(John 19: 28-30, Luke 23: 50-56)

As prepared by United Churches of Langley

Recitation

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,
People: because by your holy cross you have redeemed
the world.

Scripture: John 19: 28-30

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Scripture: Luke 23: 50-56

Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid.

It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Collect

Jesus, your witness to love was threatening,
leading some to betray you,
some to torture and execute you.
Yet, we hear stories of those who cared for you,
who gave you a holy place to rest.
Guide us to be the ones who care for others.
Let us not stand by and do nothing
when hatred and violence take hold of the world.
We ask for the gift of faith
when we are faced with the darkness of the tomb.
Amen.

Response

Oh Lord, your declaration "Tetelestai – It is Finished"
has rung in our ears for over 2000 years.
We know your death was necessary for the redemption of
our world
and yet we grieve this fact.

Each year we sit at the base of your cross, at your tomb,
and we grieve; and yet we also hope.
We choose to declare with you – “Teletelstai – It is Finished”
as a declaration of your fulfillment of the prophecy,
and the inauguration of the Kingdom of God.
You revealed the love and grace of God,
in your living and in your dying,
thus opening up the way
for all to live in the Kingdom of God forevermore.
How grateful we are for your sacrifice and your gift.
In your name we pray.
Amen

Closing Remarks & Prayer (Isaiah 53:6)
Rev. Sophia Ducey