

Petitions
Responsive Opening Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, your power reaches beyond human failing. Your forgiveness turns hearts of stone to hearts. We light a candle for your church and its leaders. May they lead us in faith and bring us closer to you.

We ask this through Christ, the Lord.

We light a candle for those in need, those who are sick or dying, captive or lost, hungry or forgotten. We ask your protection so they may know the joy of receiving you.

We ask this through Christ, the Lord.

We light a candle for people of good faith, from all lands and cultures. Together, may we search for Your truth with sincerity, and unite for freedom and peace everywhere.

We ask this through Christ, the Lord.

We light a candle for the Earth, created by You as a place of wonder and abundant life. We ask for a new will to restore the Earth to health, through wisdom, science, and human resolve.

We ask this through Christ, the Lord. Amen.

Hymn* 242 What wondrous love is this

Responsive Concluding Prayer

God of power and love, help us become more perfect witnesses of your grace.

Then may we imagine the new and better world that Jesus gave his life to save. Amen.

Sending Forth Were you there? Shantanu Thaivalappil

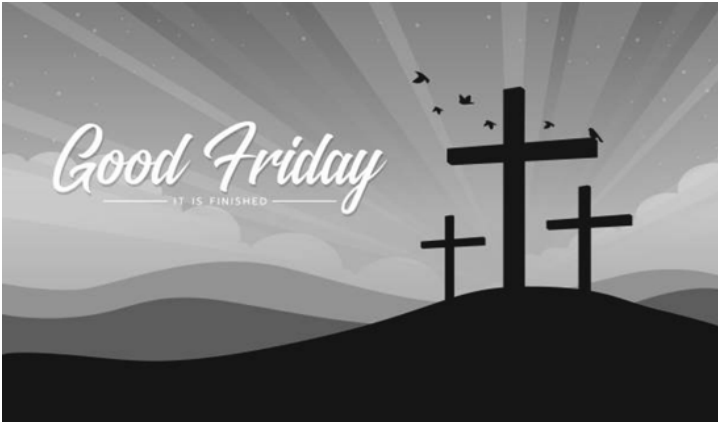
33 chimes

(Please leave the sanctuary in silence)

We extend our thanks to Rev. Donna Kerrigan for leading us in worship today. A special appreciation goes to Lac-Hong Phi and Shantanu Thaivalappil for their beautiful music, as well as to the choir and our readers for enriching our service.



Knox Presbyterian Church
55 Hincks Street, St. Thomas, Ontario
N5R 3N9



April 18th, 2025
10:30am

To all who would know God and do God's will; to all who would live and serve to make the world better; to all who seek comfort and would find rest; to old and young, wise and unlearned, rich and poor, saint and sinner, this church opens wide its doors and in the name of Jesus Christ bids you welcome to our Father's house.

WE GATHER TO REFLECT ON CHRIST’S PASSION

The Nursery and Sunday Kool are available this morning. Youngsters may go directly to their appropriate rooms.

Prelude	Spiegel im Spiegel	Lac-Hong Phi
Introduction and Welcome		
Hymn*	230	Go to dark Gethsemane
Dedicating Ourselves to Discipleship		Matthew 25:31-40
Offering and Offertory	Chant du ménestrel	Lac-Hong Phi
Doxology*		

In suffering love our God comes now, hope’s vision born in gloom. With tears and friendship shared and blest, the desert yet will bloom.

Prayers of Dedication

READING OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

Gospel of John 18:1 - 19:42 with sung responses

Jesus is Arrested and Taken to Caiaphas

O God, why are you silent? I cannot hear your voice. The proud and strong and violent all claim you and rejoice. You promised you would hold me, with tenderness and care. Draw near, O Love, enfold me, and ease the pain I bear.

Peter’s Denial

Now lost within my grieving, I fall and lose my way. My fragile, faint believing, so swiftly swept away. O God of pain and sorrow, my compass and my guide, I cannot face the morrow without you by my side.

Jesus before the Court

My hope lies bruised and battered, my wounded heart is torn; My spirit spent and shattered by life’s relentless storm. Will you not bend to hear me, my cries from deep within? Have you no word to cheer me, when night is closing in?

Jesus Is Crucified

Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom. *(sung to Taizé meditation)*

The King of the Jews

Be near when I am dying, O show thy cross to me; And for my help come flying, O God, to set me free. These eyes, new faith receiving, from thee shall not remove, for all who die believing, die safely through thy love.

A New Tomb

May pain draw forth compassion, let wisdom rise from loss. O take my heart and fashion the image of your cross. Then may I know your healing through healing that I share, your grace and love revealing your tenderness and care.

Anthem Old Rugged Cross *M. Hayes*

STONES AND CANDLES SORROW, PETITIONS, RESPONSE

Introduction

Words of Sorrow *(responsive)*

Loving God, we live in a world where everything may be bought and sold. Friendships may be broken, values betrayed, the environment trashed—all in our quest for thirty pieces of silver.

This is a sinful reality. Though we deny it, it weighs like a stone upon our hearts.

A stone is placed at the cross

Patient God, Jesus suffered as the rejected one, whom others despised, denied or ignored. We too ignore those who suffer pain and injustice.

This is a sinful reality. Though we deny it, it weighs like a stone upon our hearts.

A stone is placed at the cross

Suffering God, Jesus stood against the Great Lie, which says “*God doesn’t come to earth.*” We have denied your presence among us, rejected Jesus’ teaching, and refused to follow his way.

We know his love, but forget to be thankful. Ingratitude weighs like a stone upon our hearts.

A stone is placed at the cross

Dying God, you destroyed death so that we might live. In Jesus, you have set us free. But we still submit to the will of false power, rewarding the strong and shunning the weak. We don’t challenge systems that keep some poor and others rich.

This is a sinful reality, supported by our inaction. It too weighs like a stone upon our hearts.

A stone is placed at the cross