

**Good Friday**  
**March 29 Good Friday**  
**What are you *Up To*? “Show Up”**  
**Summerland United Church**

**Music Solo:** When I am down and, oh my soul, so weary  
When troubles come and my heart burdened be  
Then, I am still and wait here in the silence  
Until You come and sit awhile with me...

**Threshold:** The disciples were stunned at the upside-down way that Jesus kept upending the world around them. The night in the upper room was no different. Jesus got up and radically changed the hierarchical structure of that gathering by showing how the first can be last and the last can be first. The hierarchy of our day can be disrupted if we but follow Jesus in this final act of table hospitality that invites us to get up out of our own position in order to serve and lift up others.

**Reading 1** John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Holy One. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The adversary had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper, Jesus got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

"Little children, I am with you only a little longer. Where I am going, you cannot come. I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**At the Table:** The end of Jesus' earthly life felt anything but uplifting to those who loved him and ate with him that night.

Jesus already knew that this was the only way to truly show us how to love one another completely. Not by sleeping through it or denying the chaos, as the disciples may have done in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Not by wielding a sword, which Peter did later in the Garden. But by remaining true to the upended vision of what it looks like when we pay attention to the masses of humanity who suffer.

And so we show up this day with sorrow for the world, sorrow for all who have lost loved ones. Just as those around that table were about to lose their beloved.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

You formed us in your image and filled us up with your breath of life.

When we turned away, when we did not show up, your love remained steadfast.

**Holy, holy, God,**

**come close to, and save us.**

**We cry to you this night**

**for the lifting of all souls.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ.

He chose love and healing before all else. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, ate with sinners, and humbled himself as a servant to wash the feet of his friends.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is the cup of my blessing, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of all things.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the gift of Christ's life, so that we may be for the world the body of Christ.

Would that we had shown up in time.

On the night before Jesus died, Jesus fed all. Jesus invited all. Even those who betrayed him. And that is the most upending, radical, bold grace of all. This is ultimately that which lifts us up and invites us to lift up others as well.

Would that we had shown up in time.

**Reading 2:** They took him to Golgatha, which means "Skull Place," and hung him on a cross next to two criminals. There was mocking and ridicule by authorities who believed a true "king" would never have been left to die. But in the midst of all this, Jesus' last acts and words were simply about Love. He assured a repentant criminal that he was forgiven by God. He looked upon his mother and made sure one of the disciples was going to care for her like his own mother. He forgave his executioners.

*"Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

It was about noon, and darkness fell on the whole land until 3 in the afternoon. Then Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain in the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The centurion who stood guard over Jesus, seeing how he died, declared, "Clearly this was God's own." When the crowds that had gathered for the spectacle saw this happen, they returned home beating their breasts and weeping.

A group of women were present there, looking from a distance. These were the same women who followed Jesus from Galilee as ministers to him. Among them were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Joseph; and the mother of Zebedee's children.

### **Prayer**

Christ, when we survey the astonishing cross,  
strengthen us to face the very worst in our world:  
hatred, greed,  
lust for power,  
violence, oppression.  
fear that we are small/insignificant/ugly/unworthy.

Help us to bring your lasting truth, grace, faith, hope, wisdom, and love—  
the greatest of these being lasting love.

For your love has the power to destroy all that has brought you  
to this cross and us to your side.

Today we show up, and God we pray endlessly that we will not be too late  
again.amen