

**BULLETIN NOTATIONS**

**VU**-Voices United Hymn Book | **MV**-More Voices Hymn Book  
Music printed & streamed with permission  
under CCLI #1293009 & #20808245  
\* *Indicates to please stand, if able*

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS** are available as you enter the sanctuary

PRELUDE: "God so Loved the World" by J. Stainer

INTROIT: VU 144 "Were You There"

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Jesus came, sharing the path of human life, declaring and living  
possibility in the midst of poverty,  
**freedom in the midst of Roman occupation,**

hope in the midst of despair,  
**joy in the midst of sorrow,**  
life in the midst of death.

**Jesus came as vibrant light in a shadowed world.**

*The Christ candle is lit.*

until suddenly shadows fall, blocking the light, shadows of Roman  
puppets and power,  
**shadows that appear stronger than the possibility and freedom, the  
hope and joy and life that Jesus offers.**

We gather to worship today in the growing shadows.

**We gather to worship even as the light fades and fear takes hold of  
our hearts.**

\***HYMN:** VU 147 "What Wondrous Love is This"

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**We gather today, O God, 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' name. Amen.**

ANTHEM: "In the Cross" by: F. Lopez

**We Receive the Word**

*Please remain seated for the hymns*

**John 18:12–27**

**Peter's Denial**

Caroline Duffus – Central United

*A candle is extinguished. A time of silent prayer.*

**Hymn:** VU 134 "Shadows gather, deep and cold"

**John 18:28–40**

**Jesus before Pilate**

Doug Wilford – Wesley United

*A candle is extinguished. A time of silent prayer.*

**A Time of Prayer and Reflection**

**John 19:1–16a**

**Jesus is sentenced to death** Garry van Bruchem – Fenwick United

*A candle is extinguished. A time of silent prayer.*

**Hymn:** VU 136 "O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile"

**John 19:16b–25a**

**Jesus is crucified**

Gordon Crossfield – Pelham Community Church

*A candle is extinguished. A time of silent prayer.*

ANTHEM: "High on a Hill" by R.E. Schema

**John 19:25b-30**

**Jesus dies** Rowena Hetherington-Wilson – Fonthill United

*The Christ candle is extinguished. A longer time of silence.*

**John 19:31-42**

**Burial of Jesus' body** Rowena Hetherington-Wilson – Fonthill United

*We pause in silent prayer.*

**Hymn:** VU 148 "Jesus, Remember Me"

COMISSIONING

CLOSING ANTHEM: "How Deep the Fathers Love for Us" by S. Townes

*Please leave the sanctuary quietly as the music concludes.*

**Small Rocks**

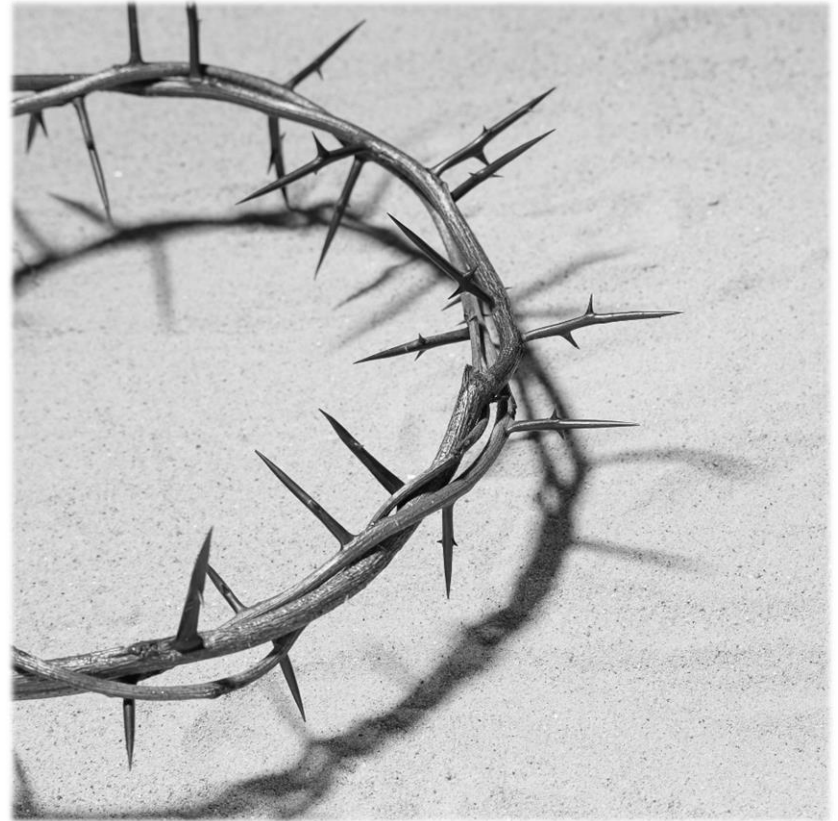
We each hold a rock – a reminder of all that this week and the story of our faith holds. As you journey into the remainder of this holy week you are invited to carry it with you through Holy Saturday or leave it at the cross today. We remember our story does not end here so when you are ready or when Easter Sunday arrives, we leave the weight behind - amidst early spring flowers and the hope we carry.

***AFTER WORSHIP***, everyone is invited to stay for refreshments, hot cross buns, and fellowship in the Lower Hall.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Fonthill United Church  
Good Friday 2026**



**MISSION STATEMENT**

Words inspire us. Music uplifts us.  
United in God's love,  
we strive to be an inclusive community,  
learning together and supporting others with compassion.