



## **FIRST UNITED CHURCH**

Swift Current, SK  
Friday, April 18, 2025



### **Good Friday**

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Music Director: James McLauchlan  
Pianist: Mary Anderson

### **GATHERING**

**Welcome & Land Acknowledgement**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Opening Prayer**

**Gracious God of grief and suffering,  
be with us as we gather  
in the shadow of the cross  
and hear again the story of Jesus' death.**

**Forgive us,  
where we have sought to avoid such times;  
where we have ignored the cross,  
denied our own pain,  
or turned our backs on the suffering of others.**

**Strengthen us,  
to face the pain of this story  
and the reality of the suffering in our world,  
to grieve and lament,  
to have compassion for ourselves and others.**

**Open our hearts  
that we may know your presence  
and be healed  
by your amazing grace.  
Amen.**

*Adapted from Celebrate God's Presence, page 177.*

**Opening Hymn: VU #136 *O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile***  
*(please stand as you are able)*

## THE TEARS OF THINGS

### Introduction

**Response: MV #90 *Don't Be Afraid***

**Scripture: Luke 22:39-53** - read by Colleen MacBean

**Reflection: The Way of Tears**

**Response: MV #90 *Don't Be Afraid***

**Scripture: Luke 22:54-65** - read by Loretta Korven

**Reflection: Letting Feelings Flow**

**Response: MV #90 *Don't Be Afraid***

**Scripture: Luke 22:66-71, 23:1-5, 13-25** - read by Dan Olmsted

**Reflection: Honouring Our Anger and Grief**

**Response: MV #90 *Don't Be Afraid***

**Scripture: Luke 23:26-34** - read by Ila Wilms

**Reflection: Universal Sadness**

**Response: MV #90 *Don't Be Afraid***

**Scripture: Luke 23:35-49** - read by Michael Korven

**Reflection: Lamenting All That's Lost**

**Special Music: MV #78 *God Weeps***

– sung by James McLauchlan

## OUR RESPONSE

### Prayers of the People

**Hymn: MV #73 *O God Why Are You Silent***

(please stand as you are able)

**Scripture: Luke 23:50-56** - read by Sharon Veer

**Reflection: Sitting with Reality**

### Commissioning & Benediction

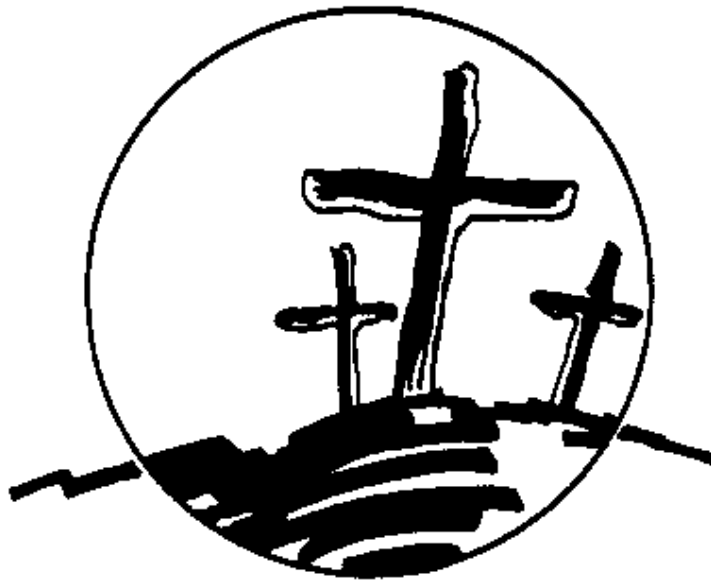
(Please Leave the Service in Silence)

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The reflections in today's service are inspired by Richard Rohr's book *Tears of Things* and are adapted from the daily meditations of the Centre for Action and Contemplation March 2-7, 2025. <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/>

All scripture readings were read from: NRSVue – New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition



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