



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



April 7, 2023

3:00pm & 7:00pm

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A cradle and a cross; and between these--

People: A life.

Leader: Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

People: A birth and a death

Leader: One of sorrows who often wept.

People: One of joy who also kept sensitivity and compassion

Leader: Alive and real. Today let us feel

People: The surge of that life

Leader: The beauty of that love

People: The power of that cross.

HYMN

'O Sacred Head, Now Wounded'

No. 202

CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

Oh God, on this darkest of nights we sit with your disciples who abandoned you. We denied you three times and we sat in the darkness afraid to show our faces, much less do your will. We repent of small misdeeds to satisfy our conscience, for we cannot deal with our denial of you. We seek to find life apart from you, for the cross is too threatening for us. We want comfort, not sacrifice. We embrace privilege, not pain. Yet the love of Christ brings us to our knees in awe and wonder. As we listen to your story told again, O God, we hear once more how costly it was for you to be able to say, "you are forgiven." Help us in our unbelief, and in our inaction. Deliver us from sin and bring us home. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN

'Were You There?' (vs 1)

(NCH #229, pg. 5)

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

THE CANDLE OF JOY

Leader: It's over.

People: We are without joy.

L: We are finished.

P: We are without joy.

L: He has been arrested and killed.

P: We are without joy.

L: We can't keep going.

P: We are without joy.

L: He was our joy.

P: And now we are without him.

HYMN

'Were you There?' (vs 2)

(NCH #229, pg. 5)

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

THE CANDLE OF HOPE

L: He told us we were blessed.

P: The hope is gone.

L: We were so close.

P: The hope is gone.

L: The bottom fell out.

P: The hope is gone.

L: He was our hope.

P: And now our hope is gone.

HYMN

'Were You There?' (vs 3)

(NCH #229, pg. 5)

**Were you there when God wept at Mary's cry?
Were you there when God wept at Mary's cry?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when God wept at Mary's cry?**

THE CANDLE OF PEACE

L: They nailed him to a tree.

P: There is no peace.

L: Angels said he was the one.

P: There is no peace.

L: The Prince, The Peace, the Everlasting One.

P: There is no peace.

L: He was the Prince of Peace.

P: And now we have no peace.

HYMN

'Were You There?' (vs 4)

(NCH #229, pg. 5)

**Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?
Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?**

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

L: We saw the way he cared and healed.

P: The love light has gone out.

L: We witnessed his compassion.

P: The love light has gone out.

L: We watched him choose this sacrifice.

P: The love light has gone out.

L: We watched him love until the end.

P: And now we miss his love.

HYMN

'Were You There?' (vs 1)

(NCH #229, pg. 5)

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

PASTOR & DEACON SCRIPTURE

Luke 4 and Luke 23

Deacon: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Pastor: Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. I will therefore chastise him and release him.

Deacon: And all went to be enrolled to their own cities. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Pastor: But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released Barabbas, the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, who they asked for, but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

Deacon: And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.

Pastor: And when they came to the place which is called the skull, there they crucified him and two criminals- one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Deacon: And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths...

Pastor: And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Deacon: ...and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night.

Pastor: And the people stood watching.

Deacon: And an angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. And they were filled with fear. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Pastor: But the rulers scoffed at him saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his chosen One!"

Deacon: And this will be a sign for you...

Pastor: While the sun's light failed, the curtained of the temple was torn in two. And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into thy hands, I commit my Spirit!"

Deacon: You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths...

Pastor: Then Joseph of Arimathea took down the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a linen shroud...

Deacon: ...and lying in a manger.

Pastor: ...and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb.

HYMN

'What wondrous love is this' (vs 1, 3, & 4)

No. 200

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my
soul, for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul!**

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and
to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while
millions join the theme, I will sing.**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing
on! And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll
sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(in unison)*

**Our Creator (Father), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kin-dom come. Thy will be
done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as
we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*At the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, we invite you to reflect for a moment on the sacrifice of Christ.
After a few moments, a postlude by Anton Faynberg will be played. Our service will then conclude.
We look forward to celebrating the Resurrection with you on Sunday morning.*

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Anton Faynberg, Organist/Pianist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

202 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
2. What thou, O Christ, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est Friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

how pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn!
Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

How does that vis - age lan - guish which once was bright as morn!
look on me with thy fa - vor, and keep me in thy grace.
O, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

WORDS: Attr. Bernard of Clairvaux (12th century); tr. James W. Alexander, 1830
MUSIC: Hans L. Hassler, 1601; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1729

PASSION CHORALE
76.76D

Were You There

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

What Wondrous Love Is This

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul! O my
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing

5

soul! What won - drous love is this, O my soul! What
sing, to God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To
on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And

10

won - drous love is this! that Christ should come in bliss to
God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while
when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be, and

14

bear the heav - y cross for my soul, for my soul, to
mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while
through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

18

bear the heav - y cross for my soul!
mil - lions join the theme, I will sing!
through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!