

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville!



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and ministries, from coast to coast, are on the
traditional territories of Indigenous people.

The Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada



La mission & le service de l'Église Unie du Canada

Photo: Terry McConnell | Location: Blenheim United Church, Blenheim, ON



B19-16



Welcome to Trinity
The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville
Good Friday
The Nails of the Cross
April 3, 2026 – 11:00 am

“Loving Hearts ... Open Minds ... Serving Hands”

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE
TO MAKE OUR WAY TO THE CROSS**

Prelude: Lynda Arnold

Greeting

One: “May the peace of our crucified and risen Christ be with you.”

All: **And also with you.**

Welcome!

A Call to Worship

One: Come, let us gather at the foot of the cross.

All: **We stand in truth with heavy hearts and eyes open.**

One: This is the day when love was rejected and when fear and power nailed mercy to the wooden cross.

All: **We come to see again the face of suffering love and to hear words of forgiveness spoken into violence.**

One: Come, let us stand in the shadow of the cross where judgment is met with grace.

All: **We come to watch, to weep and to learn the Way of Love.**

Opening Hymn: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” (VU 135)

Opening Prayer

All: **Holy One, we draw near to the cross knowing deep within us we are part of this story. We confess we still hammer nails today in the words we speak, in the judgements we make and in the way we may turn away from those who are hurting. We know we still crucify today when we choose comfort over action and fear over love. In Jesus we see mercy that refuses to allow hatred to have the final word. So, we stand at the cross today longing to be changed. We pray in the name of Jesus who showed us how to live even as he drew he last breath. Amen.**

Choir Anthem: “Celtic Prayer”

THE NAILS OF THE CROSS

One: As we listen to this ancient story once again, may we hear it with fresh ears. Let us remember the depth of Jesus’ love and his immeasurable courage as he died showing us all a better way to live our lives.

(We will remain seated and the hymns will not be announced so please follow along in your Order of Service.)

The Nail of Pride

Reader: Lynn Montgomery

Scripture Reading: Mark 12: 38-40

One: Holy One, help us to consider our own pride and where it leads.

All: **Our pride hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

The Nail of Betrayal

Reader: Sally McClelland

Scripture Reading: Matthew 26: 47-56

Sung response to the tune of: “Were You There” (VU 144)

All: **Were you there when he walked the road alone?**

Were you there when he walked the road alone?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when he walked the road alone.

One: Companion God, help us to consider how we may betray others and how we put ourselves first and abandon others in their time of need.

All: **Our acts of betrayal hurt us and create walls between us and others.**

The Nail of Indecision

Reader: Faye McKnight

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 20-24

The Nail of Cruelty

Reader: Julie Brushey

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 27-31 and 39-42
(Jesus’ crucifixion)

One: Holy One, even when we don’t like to see it, remind us how we are cruel to others, how we may malign and slander others and add to the evil that is bestowed upon them.

All: **Our cruelty hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

Hymn: “Crown Him with Many Crowns” (VU 211)

The Nail of Death

Reader: Judy White

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27: 45-50 (Jesus’ death)

Song Response Hymn: “Were You There”

(VU 144 - verses 3, 4, 5)

A Brief Reflection: What does Good Friday have to say to us today?

Invitation to the Cross

Reader: Sheila Petch

Reader: Earlier, we named a hard truth: that the cross is not only something that happened long ago, it is something that still echoes in our world today. We still hammer nails. Not with iron and wood but with words that cut, with judgments that wound, with silence that abandons, with fear that pushes others away. And if we are honest, sometimes we are the ones holding the hammer.

Today, this nail you hold is a symbol of that truth. As you hold this nail, feel its weight in your hand. Ask yourself, gently and honestly: Where have I hammered nails? In my home, in my relationships, in my thoughts, in my silence? Who have I wounded in ways seen or unseen? (brief pause)

Do not rush past this. This is not about shame; this is about truth. And truth is where healing begins.

Invitation to Come Forward

One: When you are ready, you are invited to come forward and place your nail at the foot of the cross. As you do, you might whisper in your heart:

“Lord, I lay this down.”

“Forgive me.”

“Change me.”

“Teach me a better way.”

Words During the Movement (soft, repeated or spoken once)

Lay it down...

the sharp word,
the closed door,
the hardened heart.

Lay it down...

the moments you wish you could undo.

Lay it down...

and receive mercy.

After All Have Come Forward

One: Look now, at the foot of the cross.

Each nail a moment. Each nail a story.

Each one a place where love was needed and missed.

And yet this is not the end of the story. Because the same cross that reveals our brokenness also reveals God's heart.

A heart that does not condemn but forgives.

A love that does not turn away but stays.

A love that says: *"Father forgive them for they know not what they do."*

So, as we leave this sacred space today be more aware of the nails we carry. Be more willing to set them down. And be more ready to live the Way of Christ. The Way of compassion. The Way of forgiveness. The Way of love.

Closing Hymn: "Stay With Us Through the Night" (VU 182)

A Blessing for Leaving in Silence

One: As you leave this place, may you carry the weight of this day not as despair, but as a sacred remembering.

Remember how love suffers. Remember how mercy endures.

Remember how forgiveness is given even when it's not deserved.

In your words, may there be less judgments and more grace.
In your actions, may there be less wounding and more healing.
And in your living, less crucifying and more compassion.

Go now in silence, held in the mystery of a love that will not let us go.



Feel free to linger in the Sanctuary as long as you like for prayer and meditation.



You are invited to join us again on
Easter Sunday morning at 10:00 am
when we celebrate the triumph of life over death
and what looks like an ending is surely new beginnings.

The Easter Bunny may also make a brief appearance
for our young children!

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