

Media release-re: Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice 2016
For questions about the release, contact Vivian Harrower vivianh@sympatico.ca

GOOD FRIDAY WALK TO FOCUS ON WATER

Jesus' cry from the cross, "I am thirsty," is the impetus for this year's Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice in downtown Toronto.

On the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, we will walk in the Lake Ontario Waterfront watershed, starting on the shore of Lake Ontario at Harbour Square Park, just west of the ferry docks at the foot of Bay Street. Participants will gather at 2 p.m., then proceed north on Bay Street, stopping at 'stations' along the way to decry the unjust use of the divine gift of water leading to environmental degradation and vast numbers of refugees.

The Walk will end at the Church of the Holy Trinity (just west of the Eaton Centre) for a brief worship service and message from Jennifer Henry, Executive Director of Kairos. "The health of water is about the health of our communities -- not only the quality of our relations with the earth community within watersheds, but also the nature of relationships with Indigenous peoples as the original custodians of water," Henry says.

A simple supper will take place there at approximately 4:00 p.m. A freewill offering will support the efforts of participating social justice organizations.

As Jesus cried out in thirst from the Cross, we too thirst for justice - for the environment and for all creatures adversely affected by systems that misuse or destroy Earth, our sacred home.

The Ecumenical Walk for Justice began in 1979 and has focused on a range of issues including peace, indigenous relations, the criminal justice system, violence against women, the environment and economic injustice. It is organized by a planning team drawn from several Christian denominations. Some 300-400 people take part each year.

In the words of the Walk's Mission Statement,
*And so today as we walk, we journey together with Jesus,
enacting a hope that can be for all people,
that had, and still has, the power to confront the myriad forces of death,
and overcome them, in all their forms
moving beyond the brokenness of our world
toward abundant life for all.*

For further information,
contact Michael Arbour (arbour1671@sympatico.ca) or Sherman Hesselgrave
(shesselgrave@holytrinitytoronto.org) or see www.goodfridaywalk.ca

The Toronto Ecumenical Good Friday Walk for Justice Mission Statement

We are a Good Friday People

*Centuries ago, a holy man invited a group of people on a journey.
That journey turned out to be both harrowing and life-changing.
It ended in death, a violent death on a Cross,
but also in the exciting realization that in the end
death is not God's final answer
to the human struggle
for meaning, hope and liberation.*

*The power that Caiaphas and Pontius Pilate thought they had over Jesus
Turned out to be illusory.
The Passion story unveils another kind of power at work in the world, and in the Word.
When Jesus said, "All power is given to me in heaven and on earth,"
He was not talking about domination and control
but about solidarity and liberation.
At enormous cost
Jesus confronted the life-denying forces of his day and entered death,
showing us that our lives too can confront and overcome the forces of death in our day.*

*Jesus entrusted us with an amazing gift: the gift of knowledge
about what the real purpose of our lives is
a purpose dramatically at odds
with a world marked by violence, oppression and alienation for far too many.
He offered up his life with this message, and challenges our souls through his example.
Conversion of our own lives and of the death-dealing power systems of our times
is within our reach.*

*And so today as we walk, we journey together with Jesus,
enacting a hope that can be for all people,
that had, and still has, the power to confront the myriad forces of death,
and overcome them, in all their forms
moving beyond the brokenness of our world
toward abundant life for all.*

All who share our vision are welcome.

~ Adopted 2005 ~