

# Prayer – Good Friday Confessional

Standing here beside your cross, Lord Jesus,  
We see ourselves as we really are.  
We thought we were such fine examples of faith and courage and strength.  
But now we know who we are.  
When you needed us, we ran away.  
We left you alone, to face the struggle with sin alone.  
And we are still doing it.  
We still betray and run.  
There is still anger in the crowds  
And hatred in high councils  
And people crying for blood.  
We don't want you people leaving in our neighborhoods.  
And we ran them out of town, just like we did to you, Jesus.  
We call people names, and spit at them, and throw bombs,  
And machine gun the innocent in their homes  
All in the name of holy causes.  
We still treat people the way we treated you, Jesus.  
We turn people away from our jobs,  
And we won't rent our homes to them,  
and we tell them to go live on the other side of the tracks,  
just like we treated you, Lord.  
O God, we're still at our ugly business  
Screaming  
Beating  
Dragging you out of town to die on the garbage heap  
And our way of life

And our divine destiny.  
I'm frightened, Jesus.  
Standing here beside your cross, I see myself for what I really am.  
I hurt those who love me.  
I have run away from those who needed me.  
I have been quiet when I should have spoken.  
I have abandoned those who counted on me.  
Over and over again I have put my trust in myself, not in you.  
Your words to me have not been heard – I was too preoccupied with myself.  
I missed your message.  
I failed you, Lord, and because I failed you,

You have suffered in my place.  
And now you are dying in my place.  
Pray for us, Lord Jesus.  
Forgive us, as you forgave those who crucified you.  
We didn't know what we were doing to you,  
But standing here, now we know.  
Have mercy on us, O God.  
Amen.

Fred Unruh (Canada), 1989. Charleswood Mennonite Church  
[Creative Commons: Attribution Non-Commercial 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC 4.0\)](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)