

## GOOD FRIDAY, April 2, 2021

### Opening Words:

Today the carpenter's hands are nailed to a cross; the King of kings is crowned with thorns and wears the purple robe of mockery. Today he sets us free, himself imprisoned on a tree. Today is God's Friday. We come in worship.

### **Songs: The Wonderful Cross and Hallelujah, My Father**

### Responsive Call to Worship

Today is the day when life is raw, quivering, terrifying:

**the day of numbed emotions, the day of blunt nails and splintered wood,  
of bruised flesh and red blood.**

The day we loathe, when all is made meaningless.

**The day we long for, when pretenses fall away—**

Because the worst that we can do, cannot kill God's love.

### God's Greeting

This morning, we travel the road to the cross through the words of Scripture and song as told in Mark 14 and 15. Even though the stories are familiar to many of us, listen, quiet your hearts and hear again the sad and terrible and yet amazingly beautiful story that is our salvation story.

*(power point artwork on slides)*

Candles: 9 burning at first. Extinguish one after each reading. The last one should be the actual Christ candle which will be blown out at the end before the gong is used.

### **Jesus is Anointed at Bethany**

**Mark 14:1-11**

**Reader:**

### **Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial**

**Mark 14:26-31**

**Reader:**

### **Gethsemane**

**Mark 14:32-42**

**Reader:**

**SONG: Go To Dark Gethsemane v1,2**

**Jesus Arrested and Before the Sanhedrin**

**Mark 14:53-56; 61-65**

**Reader:**

**Peter Disowns Jesus**

**Mark 14: 66-72**

**Reader:**

**Jesus Before Pilate**

**Mark 15: 1-15**

**Reader:**

**SONG: To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord luyh 162**

**The Soldiers Mock Jesus**

**Mark 15: 16-20**

**Reader:**

**The Crucifixion of Jesus**

**Mark 15: 21-32**

**Reader:**

**The Death of Jesus**

**Mark 15:33-41**

**Reader:**

**(Blow out Christ Candle)**

***(THE GONG SHOULD BE USED HERE. THEN SILENCE. THEN A SONG THAT STARTS PLAYING QUIETLY. MAYBE A SINGLE VOICE. THEN PEOPLE JOIN IN. MAYBE "WERE YOU THERE?")***

**SONG: Were You There**

**MEDITATION: Peter's Monologue**

**COMMUNION:**

**Good Friday Prayer of Confession**

Dear God,

The words of the disciple Peter ring in our ears:

I do not know this man

The words of the crowd echo in our ears:

We have no emperor but Caesar

Crucify him, Crucify him.

And we long to think that if we had been there

we wouldn't have denied him

we wouldn't have run

we wouldn't have shouted out against him

we wouldn't have abandoned him to the soldiers and spears.

Yet in our moments of honesty

when we see our heart of hearts

we know that the crowd is us.

We know that their words are ours.

We feel it is true,

because we run away from the crucifixions around us.

We shout aloud

in the din of vengeance and estrangement and hatred

that makes our world.

And the sound of the hammering of nails

we replace

with the music of our own private

headphones,

adding our own soundtrack to drown the cries

of those who are crucified.

So God, on this day

this one day

we ask that you let those sounds through

so that the banging of the hammer

draws blood

in our soul

so we are touched just for this moment

at least

just for this one Good Friday moment

with the pain.

We name the pain, as the hammer falls on the nail: **(Sounds of hammer before each word in list) ?**

War

Hunger

Violence

Homelessness

Hatred

Rape

Sickness

Coercion

Sexual slavery

Pollution  
Racism  
Hate crimes  
Homophobia  
Prejudice  
Exploitation  
Abuse

We have averted our eyes  
and let the hammer fall on the innocent.

O God,  
in our shame  
transform this sadness  
transform our hearts  
transform us toward your new world  
where there is the sound of spring again.

Bring forth your new creation now  
we ask.

Not so that our guilt may be washed away,  
but so that the pain of each victim  
of each heartbreak  
of each loss

may know your new day of joy.

In the spirit of him who was crucified  
whom we call the Christ  
who lives and reigns with you.

Make it so, Easter God.

Amen. Make it so.

### **Invitation to the table:**

These are God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
This table is made ready for those who love him  
and for those who want to love him more.  
So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,  
You who have been here often and you who have not been here long,  
You who have tried to follow and you who have failed.  
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.  
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

### **The Sacrament**

Leader: Jesus came into the world, not to judge it, but to save it.

People: *We are so grateful for God's infinite love, and we celebrate with all of creation, the saving work, of our Suffering Saviour.*

Leader: On the night before he was nailed to the merciless cross, Jesus shared His last meal with His friends. He took the bread, He broke it, and He gave thanks, and then He passed it among them saying,

This is my body which is broken for you. Eat it and remember Me.

He took the wine, and He gave thanks, and then He passed it among them saying,

This is my blood which is shed for you. Drink it and remember Me.

And so, we take, we eat and drink, and we remember: There is no greater love, than this sacrifice which You, Jesus, made for us;

*People: When we come to this meal, O Lord, we are reminded that it is the death and darkness in us, that drove You to the cross; And so we come with no pride, no sense of entitlement; we come humbly and with deep gratitude; For it is You alone that has made a place for us at Your table. Amen.*

(partaking of the elements)

Leader: Take, eat and drink, remember and believe: the body and blood of Christ given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins and the healing of the world.

Leader: As you awaken us to your presence by your Spirit, may we know this bread and wine, to be your body and blood. As you embrace us now, by your Spirit, may we be changed, so that together we become the embodiment of your love, of your life to the world.

*All: Amen.*

**SONG: Oh To See the Dawn luyh**

**Benediction:**

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet  
walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands  
stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart  
open your hearts to love.

May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,  
and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. **Amen.**

**Closing Song: Man of Sorrows**