

Call to Worship

Responsively

Leader: Our Lord has prepared a table for us and invited all who believe in him to come and share in this meal.

Congregation: As we prepare to eat, we remember Christ also invited us to take up our cross and follow him.

Leader: Tonight, we recall those times when we have been afraid to follow the way of our Lord.

Congregation: Yet Christ's sacrifice gives us the power to overcome our fears and to live truly worthy lives.

All: Loving God, give us the courage that we must have in times of greatest need. Give us enough faith to believe that the darkness of this night will lead to a beautiful Easter morning. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise No. 92

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

St. Christopher

“Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noon-tide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me:
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.”

*Opening Prayer

Unison Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, this evening, we gather as friends gathered with Jesus in the upper room long ago. We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world. In the breaking of bread, remind us of our great need for your help and your promise to fulfill that need. Refresh us and make us whole with the cup of forgiveness. This evening, draw us nearer to one another and to you. Deepen within us a sense of your steadfast love for us in Jesus Christ, our friend, and our redeemer.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Gloria Patri

“Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.”

Offering . . . *“Freely we have received, freely let us give.”*

(Please note: Regular offering envelopes support the church budget. Yellow envelopes and any undesignated offering this evening will support the work of our Deacons.)

Offering Anthem

“Steal Away”

Gwyneth Walker

“Steal away, steal away to Jesus.
Steal away, steal away home,
I ain't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder.
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul,
I ain't got long to stay here.

Green trees are bending, poor sinner stand a-tembling.
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul,
I ain't got long to stay here.

Steal away, steal away home. I see the lightning,
the thunder and the lightning, O Lord.
The trumpet sounds within-a my soul,
I ain't got long to stay here."

*** Unison Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

(The congregation is asked to hold the elements of Communion until everyone has been served. At that time, you will be invited to share in the elements together.)

Tenebrae, A Service of Shadows

The service of Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows" has been practiced by the Church since medieval times. Tonight, we join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae.

Tenebrae is a meditation of Christ's suffering. There are seven shadows that represent seven stages of the Good Friday events. At each stage, a light will be extinguished, until only the Christ candle remains. This will be carried into the Sanctuary on Easter morning as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

Darkness of Betrayal (p. 1209)

Matthew 26:20-29

That evening he took his place at the table with the twelve disciples. As they were eating he said, "I assure you that one of you will betray me." Deeply saddened, each one said to him, "I'm not the one, am I, Lord?" He replied, "The one who will betray me is the one who dips his hand with me into this bowl. The Human One goes to his death just as it is written about him. But how terrible it is for that person who betrays the Human One! It would have been better for him if he had never been born." Now Judas, who would betray him, replied, "It's not me, is it, Rabbi?" Jesus answered, "You said it." they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take and eat. This is my body." He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many so that their sins may be forgiven. I tell you, I won't drink wine again until that day when I drink it in a new way with you in my Father's kingdom."

“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 heavy cross
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!”

Agony of the Spirit (p. 1209)

Matthew 26:30-42

Then, after singing songs of praise, they went to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Tonight you will all fall away because of me. This is because it is written, I will hit the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will go off in all directions. But after I'm raised up, I'll go before you to Galilee.” Peter replied, “If everyone else stumbles because of you, I'll never stumble.” Jesus said to him, “I assure you that, before the rooster crows tonight, you will deny me three times.” Peter said, “Even if I must die alongside you, I won't deny you.” All the disciples said the same thing. Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane. He said to the disciples, “Stay here while I go and pray over there.” When he took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, he began to feel sad and anxious. Then he said to them, “I'm very sad. It's as if I'm dying. Stay here and keep alert with me.” Then he went a short distance farther and fell on his face and prayed, “My Father, if it's possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. However—not what I want but what you want.” He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Couldn't you stay alert one hour with me? Stay alert and pray so that you won't give in to temptation. The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak.” A second time he went away and prayed, “My Father, if it's not possible that this cup be taken away unless I drink it, then let it be what you want.”

Choir

“Via Dolorosa”
Birgit Fioravante, solo

Sandi Patti

Darkness of Desertion (p. 1210)

Matthew 26:45-56

Then he came to his disciples and said to them, “Will you sleep and rest all night? Look, the time has come for the Human One to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let's go. Look, here comes my betrayer.” While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, came. With him was a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. They had been sent by the chief priests and elders of the people. His betrayer had given them a sign: “Arrest the man I kiss.” Just then he came to Jesus and said, “Hello, Rabbi.” Then he kissed him. But Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came and grabbed Jesus and arrested him. One of those with Jesus reached for his sword. Striking the high priest's slave, he cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put the sword back into its place. All those who use the sword will die by the sword. Or do you think that I'm not able to ask my Father and he will send to me more than twelve battle groups of angels right away? But if I did that, how would the scriptures be fulfilled that say this must happen?” Then Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come with swords and

clubs to arrest me, like a thief? Day after day, I sat in the temple teaching, but you didn't arrest me. But all this has happened so that what the prophets said in the scriptures might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples left Jesus and ran away.

***Hymn**

"In the Garden"

Miles

"I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses,
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear, The son of God discloses.

Chorus

And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am his own;
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that he gave to me, within my heart is ringing.

Chorus

I'd stay in the garden with him though the night around me be falling,
But he bids me go; through the voice of woe his voice to me is calling.

Chorus"

Darkness of Broken Trust (p. 1211)

Matthew 27:1-10

Early in the morning all the chief priests and the elders of the people reached the decision to have Jesus put to death. They bound him, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, who betrayed Jesus, saw that Jesus was condemned to die, he felt deep regret. He returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, and said, "I did wrong because I betrayed an innocent man." But they said, "What is that to us? That's your problem." Judas threw the silver pieces into the temple and left. Then he went and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the silver pieces and said, "According to the Law it's not right to put this money in the treasury. Since it was used to pay for someone's life, it's unclean." So they decided to use it to buy the potter's field where strangers could be buried. That's why that field is called "Field of Blood" to this very day. This fulfilled the words of Jeremiah the prophet: And I took the thirty pieces of silver, the price for the one whose price had been set by some of the Israelites, and I gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me.

Choir

"Ah Holy Jesus"

Herzliebster Jesu

Darkness of False Trial (p. 1211)

Matthew 27:11-26

Jesus was brought before the governor. The governor said, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "That's what you say." But he didn't answer when the chief priests and elders accused him. Then Pilate said, "Don't you hear the testimony they bring against you?" But he didn't answer, not even a single word. So the governor was greatly amazed. It was customary during the festival for the governor to release to the crowd one prisoner, whomever they might choose. At that time there was a well-known prisoner named Jesus Barabbas. When the crowd had come together, Pilate asked them, "Whom would you like me to release to you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called Christ. He knew that the leaders of the people had handed him over because of jealousy. While he was serving as judge, his wife sent this message to him, "Leave that righteous man alone. I've suffered much today in a dream because of him." But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and kill Jesus. The governor said, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" "Barabbas," they replied. Pilate said, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called Christ?:" They all said, "Crucify him!" But he said, "Why? What wrong has he done?" They shouted even louder, "Crucify him!" Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere and that a riot was starting.

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

“O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners’ gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! ‘Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor, vouch-safe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never out-live my love to thee.”

Darkness of the Agony of the Cross (p. 1212)

Matthew 27:27-44

The governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the governor’s house, and they gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a red military coat on him. They twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand. Then they bowed down in front of him and mocked him, saying, “Hey! King of the Jews!” After they spit on him, they took the stick and struck his head again and again. When they finished mocking him, they stripped him of the military coat and put his own clothes back on him. They led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they found Simon, a man from Cyrene. They forced him to carry his cross. When they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Skull Place, they gave Jesus wine mixed with vinegar to drink. But after tasting it, He didn’t want to drink it. After they crucified him, they divided up his clothes among them by drawing lots. They sat there, guarding him. They placed above his head the charge against him. It read, “This is Jesus, the king of the Jews.” They crucified with him two outlaws, one on his right side and one on his left. Those who were walking by insulted Jesus, shaking their heads and saying, “So you were going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, were you? Save yourself! If you are God’s Son, come down from the cross.”

Choir

“Were You There”

African-American Spiritual

Darkness of Abandonment (p. 1213)

Matthew 27:45-50

From noon until three in the afternoon the whole earth was dark. At about three Jesus cried out with a loud shout, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani,” which means, “My God, my God, why have you left me?” After hearing him, some standing there said, “He’s calling Elijah.” One of them ran over, took a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a pole. He offered it to Jesus to drink. But the rest of them said, “Let’s see if Elijah will come and save him.” Again Jesus cried out with a loud shout. Then he died.

*The congregation is invited to stand, if able.

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*(Following the service this evening, the congregation is asked to leave the Sanctuary in **silence**, quietly reflecting upon the meaning of this sacred night.)*