

Holy Week Meditation || Thursday, April 9

Pause

Take a moment to breath. Relax your mind; calm your heart.

God's Greeting || *John 3:16-17*

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Worship Songs || *Either listen to or sing one or more of the follow songs-*

- ❖ *Oh, How He Loves You and Me* || [Lyric Video](#)
- ❖ *10,000 Reasons* || [YouTube](#)
- ❖ *Be Still and Know that I am God* || [YouTube](#)

Prayer

God of all hope, we gather today deeply aware of the world's grief and pain --and our own. Send your Holy Spirit here among us and comfort us with the sure knowledge that our Lenten journey will end in Easter joy -- Amen.

Scripture Reading || *Agony & Arrest*

Read Matthew 26:36-56

Reflecting on God's Word

1. If you knew that you were about to be arrested and tortured what do you think you would do? If you did pray, what do you think you would say?
2. The patience Jesus shows is remarkable, considering his closest friends fell asleep and Judas plotted against him. What does that say about our own capacity for patience? How could we apply the same Christ-like tolerance to our family and friends? What about our "enemies"?

Application

Read the words Jesus prayed before his arrest as recorded in John 17. If you are able, considering kneeling as the words are read. If you are in a group, divide the passage between a few readers-

- ❖ Reader one: vv. 1-5
- ❖ Reader two: vv. 6-19
- ❖ Reader three: vv. 20-26

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Worship Songs || *Either listen to or sing one or more of the follow songs-*

- ❖ *Rock of Ages, Cleft For Me* || [YouTube](#)
- ❖ *Reckless Love* || [YouTube](#)
- ❖ *Gethsemane Hymn* || [YouTube](#)
- ❖ *God is So Good (Children's version)* || [YouTube](#)
- ❖ *There is a Redeemer (Children's version)* || [YouTube](#)

Closing Prayer || *Rev. Joyce Borger*

Redeeming God, on the night of his betrayal and arrest, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord stopped and prayed. Help us to follow Christ's example and turn to you when we find ourselves troubled and face difficulties of all kinds.

Redeeming God, on the night of his betrayal and arrest, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, stopped and prayed not that his trials would be taken away, but that God might be glorified through him and people saved. We also pray that in whatever we face today you may be glorified. May we live our lives in such a way that people take notice and desire to know you as we do.

Redeeming God, on the night of his betrayal and arrest, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord stopped and prayed for those who were closest to him. Today we offer these prayers for those we know and love:

(Add your own prayers.)

Redeeming God, on the night of his betrayal and arrest, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord stopped and prayed for the unity of all believers. Forgive us when we have not acted as brothers and sisters, united in you. Help us to express such deep love and care for each other that the world around us notices.

Redeeming God, on the night of his betrayal and arrest, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, stopped and prayed. Thank you for providing us with this time to stop and pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Final Blessing || *Numbers 6:24-26*

²⁴ "The Lord bless you and keep you; ²⁵ the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; ²⁶ the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."