



Good Friday
April 2, 2021
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Meditation

I saw God bare his soul one day
Where all the earth might see
The stark and naked heart of him
On lonely Calvary.
There was a crimson sky of
blood
And overhead a storm;
When lightning slit the clouds
And light engulfed his form.

The Naked Soul of God

Beyond the storm a rainbow lent
A light to every clod,
For on that cross mine eyes
beheld
The naked soul of God."

William Stidger

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

The people stood yelling,

“Crucify!”

and it breaks our hearts every time. For Jesus’ death occurs every time someone is ignored, mistreated, oppressed.

“Crucify!”

tears away at God’s Beloved.

First of the Shadows

John 18:1-12

Jesus is Arrested

Extinguish the first candle

* *Hymn*

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Mt Hope VH #107

Greenfield CH #316

Grace VH #107

Second of the Shadows

John 18:15-18; 25-27

Peter denies Jesus

Extinguish the second candle

A Prayer of Reconciliation for Good Friday

Ever-present God, on this Good Friday night, our whole world is engulfed in shadows as we remember the story of Jesus’ death.

We confess that we want to push the fast-forward button on this familiar story because it hurts so much.

It hurts to think of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

It hurts to imagine Jesus abandoned and suffering on the cross with only a faithful few watching him breathe his last breath.

It hurts to watch your light overtaken by the shadows of the world.

But we must find our place in this crucifixion story and feel the pain that is there:

The pain of the world,
of faithless decisions; of betrayal; of injustice.
Jesus entered that pain out of faithfulness to you and to us,
to witness to the Truth that is Justice, Wholeness and Love.

We confess, we are afraid to enter this pain with Jesus.
Strengthen us with your courage;
offer glimpses of hope in the shadows of death;
let us know you are present
with us here in this moment of pain;
now as always.

Assurance of Blessing

Beloved followers of Jesus, it is okay to feel hurt and uncomfortable as you enter into this story and imagine your place in it. Know that God meets you in the story, with comfort as well as challenge; with courage as well as love.

Third of the Shadows

John 18:28-38

Trail of Jesus Before Pilate

Extinguish the third candle

* *Hymn*

“What Wondrous Love is This”

vs 1-2

Greenfield CH #314

Fourth of the Shadows

John 18:38 - 19:16a

Jesus is Condemned to Death

Extinguish the fourth candle

* *Hymn*

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross?”

vs 1-3

Mt Hope VH #110

Greenfield CH #324

Grace VH #110

Fifth of the Shadows

John 19:16b-27

From the Cross, Jesus Calls Forth Beloved Community

Extinguish the fifth candle

Prayer

Ever Present God, we are amazed that Jesus, nearing his death, reached out to comfort and empower those dearest to him. At the foot of his cross, he called his mother and his beloved disciple into a new community. Give us the grace and courage to join them there, welcoming all who struggle and grieve into this new covenant of love and grace.

For whom shall we pray, in our world, our community, our family, under the shadow of the cross?

Sixth of the Shadows

John 19:28-30

Jesus Dies

Extinguish the sixth candle

Homily

Jesus Is Dead... It is finished.

The lights are dimmed.

Extinguish the Christ candle

Seventh of the Shadows

John 19:38-42

Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

* *Confessional Hymn*

"Were You There?"

vs 1-3

Mt Hope PH #179

Greenfield CH #315

Jesus is laid in the tomb, and his followers leave him to God, in the silence and rest of Sabbath. You are invited to leave into the shadows of this night.