

Good Friday, April 2nd 2021

People needed

Narrator: Bill

Candle extinguisher: Tim

Organist: Donna

Soloist: Deborah

Four parts for Taize songs.

Two readers. – two of the singers.

Practice at 9am Friday morning. Service at 10:00am

We have an image of the three crosses on the hill

Black cave like setting with 5 burning candles.

One person dressed in white sits in the dark, single light illuminating the scene.

Music plays in the background before we start. the tune “were you there?”

Invitation – Call to Worship

Come, enter the tomb where we will lay him. Help me make it ready to receive his body. A darkness has descended as one more innocent human being is to be killed for no reason other than caring for others, for refusing to compromise his love. Come sit with me in the dark as we wait, there is room for you all.

Song: “Wait for the Lord”

**R) Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord:
Keep watch take heart! X 2**

Prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight path for God.
Prepare the way for the Lord. **R)**

Rejoice in the Lord always: God is at hand.
Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord. **R)**

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. All the earth will see the Lord **R)**

I waited for the Lord. God heard my cry. **R)**

Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, our God. **R)**

Seek first the kingdom of God. Seek and you shall find. **R)**

O Lord, show us your way. Guide us in your truth. **R)**

Narrator: You know the story. But hear again as we wait. Last evening as we all sat to the Passover meal.

Mark 13:22-28

While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, ‘Take; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, ‘This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. Truly I tell you, I will never again drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.’

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. And Jesus said to them, ‘You will all become deserters; for it is written,

“I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.” But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.’ Peter said to him, ‘Even though all become deserters, I will not.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.’ But he said vehemently, ‘Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.’ And all of them said the same.

Narrator: You were there weren't. At the table. Wondering if you were the one to betray or deny. We all wondered. We all said we would stick with him to the end. But here we are hiding in the shadows. Take this cup and raise to your lips and taste the bitterness of our failure that we all that carry in our hearts. Prayer for like your life depended on it. Like he did in the garden as we all drifted off to sleep.

Song “Wait for the Lord.”

**R) Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord:
Keep watch take heart! X 2**

Prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight path for God.
Prepare the way for the Lord. **R)**

Rejoice in the Lord always: God is at hand.
Joy and gladness for all who seek the Lord. **R)**

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One candle is lifted up so all can see it and if extinguished.

For those who lives are denied. Those homes are on the street with no roofs. Those way of loving is denied and condemned. Those who worked and to little to live on. This candle dims so that we remember.

Reader One:

Mark 14.32-72

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.’ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, ‘Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.’ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.’

Song: "Our Darkness"

Our darkness is ever darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.
Our darkness is ever darkness in your sight:
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.

A second candle is extinguished.

For those who yearn for hope for a way out of prison of abuse and suffering. Refugees driven out of their homes by violence. Those escaping the wastelands of drought and heat. For the woman freedom from an abusive partner. This candle dims to remind us of their hope.

Narrator: That is the promise isn't it. That our darkness does not hide us from God. Like the child waiting to be found we hide hoping we won't be forgotten.

Jesus was forgotten by his friends by the world. Do you fear this suffering, worse than death, worse than pain, the suffering of losing who you are. We betray ourselves with our neglect of our true selves. What baggage we carry, hiding from God. That is why on this day we come to the tomb. Here we hide not from God but from all the worldly lies. Here we surrender to work of the Cross. Come let us hear how he and we were betrayed and condemned.

Reader One:

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs. - Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

Jesus before the Council

They took Jesus to the high priest; and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest; and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands."' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power", and "coming with the clouds of heaven."' '

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death. Some began to spit on him, to blindfold him, and to strike him, saying to him, 'Prophecy!' The guards also took him over and beat him.

Narrator: We better prepare our hearts. When they bring the body to us in this tomb we will hardly recognize him. The soldier beat him. No reason really, just cruelty and fear. Fear that the man of peace will show the lies of their violence. We still hope that someone will stay by him, through this long night.

Third candle is Extinguished.

For those who find door closed because of the colour of their skin, their name, the way they talk or look. Condemned, and pushed aside for no reason within their control. This candle dims to remind us their need for justice.

Reader two

Peter Denies Jesus

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, 'You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.' But he denied it, saying, 'I do not know or understand what you are talking about.' And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, 'This man is one of them.' But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, 'Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean.' But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, 'I do not know this man you are talking about.' At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

Jesus before Pilate

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' He answered him, 'You say so.' Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, 'Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you.' But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

Pilate Hands Jesus over to Be Crucified

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, 'Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, 'Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?' They shouted back, 'Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

Song: Kyrie Eleison MV 67

One: Kyrie eleison

All: Kyrie eleison

One: Christe eleison

All: Christe eleison

One: Kyrie eleison

All: Kyrie eleison

It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, 'The King of the Jews.' And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, 'Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!' In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.' Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

The Death of Jesus

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Song: All Who Pass this Way.

All you who pass this way, look and see,
Is any sorrow like the sorrow that afflicts me?
Father, forgive them! They know not what they do.

Narrator: Here they come now. Carrying his poor broken body. Do you dare to look? We made his tomb ready, but have you made your heart ready? Have you cleared space in your wounded lives to receive his death? Have today died with him on the Roman Cross.

Forth Candle is extinguished.

For us, all of us, for all of humanity, that struggle and hopes for light and a future. This candle dims to make room for the new light of God. May it come soon.

Reader one

The Burial of Jesus

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

Narrator: Lock us in. Roll the stone over the entrance and block out the light, for our friend has been murdered by the empire for loving us, the least of this world.

The last candle is extinguished.

For Jesus.

Song: Jesus Remember me.

Jesus, remember me when you come to your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom

Music in the background Were you there. With the image of the three crosses.