

# *CC/W, M/F, TO, SB, & TS Pastoral Charges*

*Good Friday Service – March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:30 am*

## Welcome & Announcements:

**Eric:** Today's service will just end - take a moment or two to sit in the silence. There will be no benediction, as we are in the continuous worship of Holy Week, which ends at the proclamation of Resurrection on Easter morning.

## Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Video: The Last Supper

## Call To Worship:

**Eric:** We gather at a crossroad.

**People:** **We know not what lies ahead.**

**Eric:** We know that we will encounter betrayal, pain, and loneliness.

**People:** **Yet, through Jesus, we are shown how to stand on our own and with all the suffering. The powers of death and isolation are great.**

**Eric:** Yet, in God, we discover a way of peace and companionship.

## Gospel: John 18: 1 – 14

Jesus, having prayed this prayer, left with his disciples and crossed over the brook Kidron at a place where there was a garden. He and his disciples entered it. Judas, his betrayer, knew the place because Jesus and his disciples went there often. So Judas led the way to the garden, and the Roman soldiers and police sent by the high priests and Pharisees followed. They arrived there with lanterns and torches and swords. Jesus, knowing by now everything that was imploding on him, went out and met them. He said, "Who are you after?" They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said, "That's me." The soldiers recoiled, totally taken aback. Judas, his betrayer, stood out like a sore thumb. Jesus asked again, "Who are you after?" They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene." "I told you," said Jesus, "that's me. I'm the one. So if it's me you're after, let these others go." (This validated the words in his prayer, "I didn't lose one of those you gave.") Just then Simon Peter, who was carrying a sword, pulled it from its sheath and struck the Chief Priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. Malchus was the servant's name. Jesus ordered Peter, "Put back your sword. Do you think for a minute I'm not going to drink this cup the Father gave me?" Then the Roman soldiers under their commander, joined by the Jewish police, seized Jesus and tied him up. They took him first to Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the Chief Priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it was to their advantage that one man die for the people.

## Opening Hymn: VU 133 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
you that feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see;  
watch with him one bitter hour;

turn not from his grief away:  
learn from him to watch and pray.

### **Opening Prayer:**

**People:** In hearing these hard stories, O God, equip us to be people of peace and friendship – in all the times – but especially when we would rather resort to violence or run away. May a community be built among us; a community that stands with each other, counting on the loving power for life.

### **Gospel: John 18: 15 – 40:**

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. That other disciple was known to the Chief Priest, and so he went in with Jesus to the Chief Priest's courtyard. Peter had to stay outside. Then the other disciple went out, spoke to the doorkeeper, and got Peter in. The young woman who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, "Aren't you one of this man's disciples?" He said, "No, I'm not." The servants and police had made a fire because of the cold and were huddled there warming themselves. Peter stood with them, trying to get warm.

Annas interrogated Jesus regarding his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered, "I've spoken openly in public. I've taught regularly in meeting places and the Temple, where the Jews all come together. Everything has been out in the open. I've said nothing in secret. So why are you treating me like a traitor? Question those who have been listening to me. They know well what I have said. My teachings have all been aboveboard." When he said this, one of the policemen standing there slapped Jesus across the face, saying, "How dare you speak to the Chief Priest like that!" Jesus replied, "If I've said something wrong, prove it. But if I've spoken the plain truth, why this slapping around?" Then Annas sent him, still tied up, to the Chief Priest Caiaphas.

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was back at the fire, still trying to get warm. The others there said to him, "Aren't you one of his disciples?" He denied it, "Not me." One of the Chief Priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, "Didn't I see you in the garden with him?" Again, Peter denied it. Just then a rooster crowed.

They led Jesus then from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. It was early morning. They themselves didn't enter the palace because they didn't want to be disqualified from eating the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and spoke. "What charge do you bring against this man?" They said, "If he hadn't been doing something evil, do you think we'd be here bothering you?" Pilate said, "You take him. Judge him by your law." The Jews said, "We're not allowed to kill anyone." (This would confirm Jesus' word indicating the way he would die.) Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. He said, "Are you the 'King of the Jews'?" Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you this about me?" Pilate said, "Do I look like a Jew? Your people and your high priests turned you over to me. What did you do?" "My kingdom," said Jesus, "doesn't consist of what you see around you. If it did, my followers would fight so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But I'm not that kind of king, not the world's kind of king." Then Pilate said, "So, are you a king or not?" Jesus answered, "You tell me. Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice." Pilate said, "What is truth?" Then he went back out to the Jews and told them, "I find nothing wrong in this man. It's your custom that I pardon one prisoner at Passover. Do you want me to pardon the 'King of the Jews'?" They shouted back, "Not this one, but Barabbas!" Barabbas was a Jewish freedom fighter.

**Reflection Hymn: VU 133 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

See him at the judgement hall,  
beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
    see him meekly bearing all;  
    love to all his soul sustained.  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss:  
learn from Christ to bear the cross.

**Prayer:**

**People:** God, we see judgments each and every day among humankind. We are quick to react rather than stop, pause, and reflect on what we believe is the truth. Today, God, grant us the blessing of patience and resolve to not only speak our truth, but also to live it and look upon others as Children of God. Let us live in wisdom so that no one would have to die for our truth but instead will live for our love. Amen.

**Reflection: Peter denying Jesus**

**Invocation:**

**Eric:** With heavy hearts and a heavy world, we meet you this day, O Christ.

**People:** In your clenched hands, stretched and nailed, you gather us.

**Eric:** In holy sorrow, we find silence our only friend.

**People:** With strength, only you can give, even now, and with a courage only you can know, may we find ourselves beside you, O God.

**Eric:** As life teeters and eternity weeps, may we see through love's pain, into love's promise and love's destiny.

**People:** And may we even now, even now, hear the echo of resurrection.

**Video: Crucifixion**

**Reflection Hymn: VU 133 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

Calvary's mournful mountain view;  
there the Lord of glory see,  
    made a sacrifice for you,  
    dying on the accursed tree.  
'It is finished,' hear his cry:  
trust in Christ and learn to die.

**Reflection: Jesus' last words**

**Extinguishing the Candle:**

**Eric:** *And he gave up his Spirit, and so we extinguish the Christ Candle.*

## **Chorus to Prayer: VU 371 “Open My Eyes That I May See” Chorus**

*Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!*

### **Prayer:**

**People:** O God, hear our prayers, from our hearts and minds in the silence, as we reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus. Allow the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts as we remember the journey Jesus Christ has taken. Be with us and guide us, to what we need to receive in our lives, so that we might understand a little more of our path in our journeys of faith.

*(Observe a moment of silence.)*

**People:** It is finished...

... in our times of despair, we offer the prayer Jesus taught us...

*Our Father, Who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven,  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen. \*\**

### **Video: Mary’s Musings**

**Mary: Sharon Campbell Rayment**

### **Gospel: John 19: 38 – 42**

After all this, Joseph of Arimathea (he was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, because he was intimidated by the Jews) petitioned Pilate to take the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission. So Joseph came and took the body. Nicodemus, who had first come to Jesus at night, came now in broad daylight carrying a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. They took Jesus’ body and, following the Jewish burial custom, wrapped it in linen with the spices. There was a garden near the place he was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been placed. So, because it was Sabbath preparation for the Jews and the tomb was convenient, they placed Jesus in it.

### **Profession of Faith:**

**Eric:** Wait in faith now, people of God.

**People:** We wait and if our faith runs low, we will touch the hands of those around you who also sit and wait beside the tomb.

**Eric:** We will wait in faith, Jesus Christ.

**People: Hold near to you the people of ages past – those who had nothing but faith to sustain them.**

**Eric:** Wrap the bodies of need with shrouds of loving-kindness while you wait as though you, too, hold the Body of Christ.

**People: We will wait in love, Jesus Christ.**

**Eric:** Roll the stones of determination into the paths of those who would destroy hope and sit before the sanctuaries of good to guard the truth.

**People: Be the brave defenders against all who would take away the trust on a child's face – with its expectation that love will survive and bring us home to the victory of abundant life.**

**Eric:** We will wait in faithfulness, Jesus Christ.

**People: Wait in faith over these next three days.**

**Eric:** Wait in hope for the risen life of God to visit the people in grace.

**People: Wait in openness for gifts beyond imagining.**

**Eric:** For this is the Christ, the Human One whose love will never be defeated.

**People: We will wait in hope.**

### **Benediction:**

*The service ends without a formal benediction, for it is an unfinished part of the continuous worship of Holy Week, which does not conclude until the pronouncement of resurrection at Easter vigil or Easter morning.*

**Postlude:** *Soft Music for reflection:* - Christie Coatsworth