

TCC Takeout

An Order of Service for Worship at Home

God's Extravagant Welcome:
***"No matter who you are or where
you are on life's journey, YOU are
welcome here!"***



Good Friday April 10, 2020

"All the goodness and the heroisms will rise up again, then be cut down again, then rise up. It isn't that the evil thing wins - it never will - but that it doesn't die." - John Steinbeck

Prelude: "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" by Marty Haugen. Dorothy Skidmore and Flute Drummond Ringers

[Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery](#)

Opening Words - Rev. Ted Thornton

The phrase "Good Friday" has always struck English speaking Christians as a strange way to refer to a day when we remember all the horrific things Jesus endured. Some think the word "Good" refers to God, as in "God's Friday." This, it's felt by many, isn't any help or consolation either. How could God who claims to love us countenance such unspeakable suffering as the cross inflicted upon one of his creatures?

In German-speaking countries, Good Friday is generally referred to as *Karfreitag* from Old High German *kara*, to "bemoan", to "grieve", or to "mourn." So, "Mourning Friday" comes close to describing our mood today. We "mourn" Jesus' departure from this life. In English, the word "good" also means holy or pious, and that's the sense in which we should remember it: let's call it "Holy Friday, a day of Grief or Mourning."

Many thanks to Patter and Heather for their help selecting the music for this service.

Musical Interlude -- "Da Jesus an dem Kreuze Stund" by J. Pachelbel

[J. Pachelbel - 'Da Jesus an dem Kreuze stund'](#)

Call to Worship

One: Jesus, I need healing.

Many: At times I have a Judas voice which betrays the Christ in me and in others.

One: There is also a Pontius Pilate who will shrug and walk away from the suffering in the world, a Peter who panics and denies the truth.

Many: Jesus, the scenes of your trial and crucifixion get acted out inside me time after time, and there are days when I find it hard to look at myself in the mirror.

One: I need you to remind me that forgiveness begins with forgiving myself.

Many: Life is a journey of contrasts. It is light which makes shadows, hills which cause valleys, and it is your life in me which makes me so aware of the beauty and frailty of being human.

One: Jesus, show me how to be gentle with myself, how to repair with love the damage I do to myself and others.

All: And in my moment of despair, draw me back to your Easter message: that after every crucifixion comes resurrection.

Hymn: NCH #223 "What Wondrous Love Is This"

[What Wondrous Love is This - Classic Christian Hymns with Lyrics](#)

Gathering Prayer

Holy One, we gather in your presence on this holy night.

We look forward to the resurrection celebration.

But we know that first, we must walk this path with you.

Give us ears to hear. Give us eyes to see.

Give us open spirits and faithful feet.

Amen.

Reading from Scripture - [John 18-19](#)

Musical Interlude, African American Spiritual (thanks to Heather Tower)

[WERE YOU THERE // feat. Andrea Thomas - #VIGIL](#)

Reflection - Ted

We read in John 19:30, “When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

Jesus’ business in this world was finished that first Good Friday long ago. What about your business? Is your business finished? If not, how much unfinished business do you still have in front of you and what are you going to do about it? There are a great number of untidy and unfinished corners in my life. To mimic the old prayer of General Confession, “there are many things I’ve left undone that I ought to have done.”

Good Friday, for all its grim fixation on the cross, is not just a day when we remember Jesus’ suffering and death. It’s a day about taking stock, looking at what we’ve done and not done with our lives. It’s about recommitting ourselves to the lives God wants each of us to live knowing that - like Jesus - we haven’t unlimited amounts of time to do it, a sobering fact underscored by the current pandemic.

We need to think about this community we’re a part of and all the unfinished business we have right here, especially in this church and especially at this time in the life of this church.

Good Friday is not just a day we contemplate Jesus’ final hours and his suffering. It’s a day that calls us beyond suffering and grieving, and beyond fear of the present perils that surround us. It’s a day that calls us into renewal and into resurrection up and away from every “disease” that infects our lives and hinders us from being the best we can be. In short, Good Friday marks the final stage in our preparation for Easter.

May God Bless you as you move toward finishing your unfinished business. AMEN

Hymn: NCH #224 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

[When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - Mormon Tabernacle Choir](#)

CLOSING PRAYER AND BENEDICTION

Grieving God,
 on the cross
 your Son embraced death
 even as he had embraced life:
 faithfully and with good courage.
 Grant that we who have been
 born out of his wounded side
 may hold fast to our faith in him exalted

and may find mercy in all times of need. Amen.

Now Jesus, may God bless you and keep you,
May the very face of God shine upon you, and be gracious to you,
May God's presence embrace you and give you eternal peace.
Amen.

In church, the Christ candle would exit the sanctuary marking the end of the service. Congregants would be expected to either remain for quiet reflection or meditation or depart quietly as they are ready.

Music for Meditation

Tallis, *Spem in Alium* ("Hope in Any Other")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iT-ZAAi4UQQ>

Text: I have never put my hope in any other
but in Thee, God of Israel
who canst show both wrath and graciousness,
and who absolves all the sins
of man in suffering
Lord God,
Creator of Heaven and Earth
Regard our humility

Pergolesi, *Stabat Mater* ("The Mother Stood")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHQVtYzjLao>

Text: At the Cross her station keeping,
stood the mournful Mother weeping,
close to her Son to the last.

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