

**COS Spiritual Formation**  
**Weekend March 13-14, 2015**

**Friday Gathering**  
**3:45-4:20 pm**

**Gathering Music**  
**Announcements**

*[version for bulletin]*  
**REMEMBER ME...**

*(adapted from John L. Bell, Remember Me Today: A Good Friday Reflection, WGRG Liturgy Booklet no.4, Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Resource Group, 2002)*



**Overview**

*This service may be adapted in various ways for one or more services during Holy Week. It is designed so that the service proceeds without announcement; the main text is used only for those leading worship. There are 9 or more speaking parts (depending on how they are assigned); speakers could stand on the periphery or read from behind the congregation. Most of the sound effects can be done live or pre-recorded. The meditation is narrated by the apostle John, with reflections by other characters close to Jesus, who is the focus but is not featured in person.*

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*(begins with Disney music from "Fantasia")*

**John's Story**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...  
And I was one of his.

*(music fades)*

**SONG 488 "Jesus, Remember Me"**

**Judas' Story**

*(sound of coins clinking)* How much? How much? Don't insult me...

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, remember me today... remember me and all those who work the money market, the future market, the shares index... obsessed with profit and gain.

We keep money and morality apart and blame the market, not ourselves... is there a difference? In case my conscience bothers me and I sell my soul... in case my vision blurs and I crush the poor... let the sound of clinking silver save me from following Judas.

**SONG 314 "In the Garden"**

**Peter's Story**

*(cock crows)* What did I say? I didn't mean anything...

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, remember me today... for I've got a way with words, and I've gotten away with words... When I'm cornered, I don't commit myself, I just argue my way out of my corner, because there's a cost to commitment, which I don't want to pay...

If I'm asked what I think about religion, I'll give a good reply. But if I'm asked if I follow you, I avoid the question... as if you weren't important.

When I sit on the fence, let the sound of the cock crowing save me from following Peter...

**SONG 286 (v 1, 3) "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"**

### **Pilate's Story**

*(water splashing)* I was only doing my job...

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, remember me today... me and all like me, who compromise their beliefs, and make decisions which hurt innocent people... and then, when questions are asked, reply "I was only doing my job." In the face of people crying, I hide behind the rules. In the face of people leaving, I watch the clock and long for the office to close. In the face of unjust laws, I just do my job. When I get discouraged about life, when I go by the book, even when the book is wrong, let me see your face in those I am hurting. Let the sound of water save me from following Pilate.

### **SONG 483 Kyrie Eleison**

#### **A Bystander's Story**

*(sound of dragging cross)* So they took him from the judgment hall...

Then I thought to myself, "But who would dare?" *(sound of dragging cross)*

#### **SONG 301 ( 1-3) "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"**

#### **A Woman's Story**

*(sound of women weeping)* I don't want you to think that I'm better than I am...

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, remember me... and all like me who have got out of touch with their tears. I find it easier to weep at a love story or movie, or when my team wins, than to weep for the people who have had to flee their country, or the people who still hurt from the wounds of war, or the people who beg for food or the children who live on the street or suffer abuse. Lord, when my tears only come from a passing thought, let the sound of women crying remind me that there are other things to weep about.

#### **SONG 290 (v 1-3) "Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

#### **A Carpenter's Story**

*(sound of hammering)* I make crosses and I hammer nails for a living...

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, remember me. Two thousand miles and two thousand years stretch between now and Calvary. But nothing separates you from me. Your crucifixion is not in the past, it is here and now. It is required, because in a thousand ways, I betray you, deny you, wash my hands of you and condemn you. And all the goodness that I might have, and all the good works that I might do, and all the right decisions that I might make, will never come to be, unless I accept what I am – one of your persecutors; so I ask your forgiveness that I might become one of your friends.

#### **SONG 288 (v 1-2) "Were You There"**

#### **Epilogue**

*(music plays from "Passacaglia from Henry V")*

In the beginning was the Word... I am with you always.

*(music fades)*

#### **SONG 298 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

*(people may remain seated and listen to the music or leave quietly)*

Sound Effects:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= HohMfraxFI> (Fantasia from Disney)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcM2D6wZPGM> (coins dropping)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EupOou5VcGM> (cock crowing)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AxvzQ386Uao> (water splashing)

<http://www.soundsnap.com/tags/dragging> (dragging a large wood object)

<https://www.sounddogs.com/results.asp?Type=1&CategoryID=1033&SubcategoryID=8>  
(female crying, long sobbing...)

<http://www.pond5.com/sound-effects/1/hammer.html> (hammer wood)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U4VQgKGbEkg> (Passacaglia from Henry V)

“Remember Me” Readers:

readers stand in back of congregation, prayers from within congregation,

Voice 1 – John (narrates throughout)\*

Voice 2 – Judas

Voice 3 – Prayer (repeats, by man in congregation)\*

Voice 4 – Peter

Voice 5 – Prayer (repeats, by woman in congregation)\*

Voice 6 – Pilate

Voice 7 – Bystander (woman)

Voice 8 – Woman

Voice 9 – Carpenter

**COS Spiritual Formation**  
**Weekend April 13-14, 2015**

**Friday Gathering**  
**3:45-4:20 pm**

*[Script for readers]*

**REMEMBER ME...**

*(adapted from John L. Bell, "Remember Me Today: A Good Friday Reflection," WGRG Liturgy Booklet no.4, Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Resource Group, 2002)*

### **JOHN'S STORY**

(Fantasia music from Disney begins)

**VOICE 1:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... that's how I began. There's no better way.

And if only the Word had remained a word, I might have written nothing more.

But the Word became flesh... he lived among us... he was one of us...

And I... I was one of his.

(music fades)

### **SONG 488 "Jesus, Remember Me"**

#### **JUDAS' STORY**

(sound of coins clinking through the reading)

**VOICE 2:** How much? How much? Don't insult me. You know it has to be an inside job and time is running out... and... that's not enough. Remember, it's not just the end for him. It's the end for me. I don't have another job to go to, and there won't be any references, unless you... No, you wouldn't want anyone to know you financed me. You're supposed to be above that kind of thing... like me...

Well? You know, the difference between you and me is that I like him... I... love him...

all right... tonight... I'll kiss him... I'll kiss him as a sign... is the bag empty yet?

(sound of coins)

#### **John:**

**VOICE 1:** It was in the garden. If we had known what was going to happen, we would have kept awake. But we slept... we were tired, you see...

And then one minute we were being woken by Jesus, and the next minute we heard voices everywhere.

And then Judas appeared... and for a handful of silver, he kissed goodbye to the Lord.

(sound of coins)

#### **Man prays:**

**VOICE 3:** Lord Jesus, remember me today... remember me and all those who work the money market, the future market, the shares index... obsessed with profit and gain.

We keep money and morality apart and blame the market, not ourselves... is there a difference?

In case my conscience bothers me and I sell my soul... in case my vision blurs and I crush the poor... let the sound of clinking silver save me from following Judas.

### **SONG 314 "In the Garden"**

#### **PETER'S STORY**

(Cock crow)

**VOICE 4:** What did I say? I didn't mean anything. I mean, it wasn't that kind of conversation. I don't mind discussing my faith with people who know about faith... priests... ministers... you know the sort of people I'm talking about.

But, I mean, when you're just warming your hands at a fire and some crazy chamber maid starts coming on all holy...

I mean, you don't know who you're talking to.

I didn't want to encourage her. I had other things on my mind, holy things.

So, I just said, "I don't know what you're talking about," ...

and I'd say it again if I had to....

(Cock crow)

I'll not say it again. The next time I won't say anything at all.

The next time, I'll avoid any kind of confrontation, any kind of conversation.

The next time, I won't even shrug my shoulders or shake my head.

If I do nothing and say nothing... surely that way I'll neither affirm or deny him...

(cock crow)

**John:**

**VOICE 1:** At least Peter was there. He went all the way... though at a distance...

He even managed to get inside and stand, with the soldiers and the servants, heating his hands over an open fire.

I don't know whether he thought he could remain anonymous... him, with his accent... or whether he thought he had a way with words.

(cock crow)

**Woman prays:**

**VOICE 5:** Lord Jesus, remember me today... for I've got a way with words, and I've gotten away with words... When I'm cornered, I don't commit myself, I just argue my way out of my corner, because there's a cost to commitment, which I don't want to pay...

If I'm asked what I think about religion, I'll give a good reply. But if I'm asked if I follow you, I avoid the question... as if you weren't important.

When I sit on the fence, let the sound of the cock crowing save me from following Peter...

## **SONG 286 (v 1 & 3) "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"**

### **PILATE'S STORY**

(water splash)

**VOICE 6:** I was only doing my job... I'm an administrator, a governor, a public servant...

I'm not a social worker or a therapist, and even if I were, I might convince the prisoner, but not the crowd.

(water splash)

I must say, though, I admired him... he didn't flinch, he didn't plead, he didn't give a last curse at authority, as some do when they know that their next stop is the gallows.

He was calm... not passive, but calm. He looked at me, almost as if he understood my dilemma.

I was moved... I was very moved...

(water splash)

but it's not my job to be moved, it's my job to administer. I have kept my feelings to myself, and my conscience quiet, even when I know better... after all there's the crowd to consider...

(water splash)

**John:**

**VOICE 1:** I couldn't see all that was happening, but I could see Pilate, and I could hear the crowd. It was like a celebration, not a holy day.

Everybody wanted to know if Pilate would sentence him to death. They didn't want a fair trial; they wanted blood, but they wanted someone else to spill it.

When Pilate said he couldn't find any guilt in him, the crowd went wild.

It became obvious that it was either going to be Jesus' life or Pilate's job.

So he opted for self-interest. After that, I wonder if he can still live with himself...

(water splash)

**Man prays:**

**VOICE 3:** Lord Jesus, remember me today... me and all like me, who compromise their beliefs, and make decisions which hurt innocent people... and then, when questions are asked, reply "I was only doing my job."

In the face of people crying, I hide behind the rules.

In the face of people leaving, I watch the clock and long for the office to close.

In the face of unjust laws, I just do my job.

When I get discouraged about life,

When I go by the book, even when the book is wrong,

Let me see your face in those I am hurting.

Let the sound of water save me from following Pilate.

**SONG 483 Kyrie Eleison**

**A BYSTANDER'S STORY**

(sound of dragging cross)

**VOICE 7:** So they took him from the judgment hall... they stripped him and flogged him.

And then they put purple cloth over his shoulders, and for a moment he looked majestic... you couldn't see his wounds... just his face...

Then they threw a wooden cross over his shoulder, and prodded him like a beast in a cattle ring and made him walk... until he stumbled.

(sound of dragging wood)

then they made him walk again, and forced a stranger to share the burden.

(sound of dragging wood)

I thought to myself, "If we all carried it, it would be easier for him."

Then I thought to myself, "But who would dare?"

(sound of dragging wood)

**SONG 301 (v 1-3) "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"**

**A WOMAN'S STORY**

(sound of women weeping)

**VOICE 8:** I don't want you to think that I'm better than I am... I've wept before, lots of times; but I've been paid for it... lots of times. It's a kind of side line.

The way we have funerals, they are public occasions.

If you're going to have a big wedding, you hire a big band, or at least a duet or trio. Then the windows open and the people come out to clap or dance and wish the best to the newly weds.

But if you're going to have a big funeral, you don't hire a band, you get some women like me, who can cry at the drop of a hat, to dress themselves in black and weep and wail for as long as you like.

I wasn't dressed in black today, it was just my ordinary clothes.

And it was no act... I wanted to cry. I wanted to cry for me and for every other woman, that Jesus had helped or had been good to.

I wanted to cry for Mary and Margaret too. I wanted to cry for Judith, because everybody thought she was possessed until Jesus had a meal with her. I wanted to cry for Anna and Elspeth and Runa, because they had no fathers for their children.

So I cried, in anger at the men who want to kill our Savior, and in anger at the men who do nothing to stop it.

And still I cry... because... I... love Jesus.

(sound of weeping)

**John:**

**VOICE 1:** There were crowds of them weeping at the street corners, and all through the city, and up the hill to Calvary.

And some said, 'it's just women... what else do you expect?'

And some spit at them... there was a lot of spitting that day... and Jesus... so they say... told the women not to cry for him. There were other things to weep about...

(sound of weeping)

**Man prays:**

**VOICE 3:** Lord Jesus, remember me... and all like me who have got out of touch with their tears. I find it easier to weep at a love story or movie, or when my team wins, than to weep for the people who have had to flee their country, or the people who still hurt from the wounds of war, or the people who beg for food or the children who live on the street or suffer abuse. Lord, when my tears only come from a passing thought, let the sound of women crying remind me that there are other things to weep about.

## **SONG 290 (v 1-3) "Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

### **A CARPENTER'S STORY**

(sound of hammering)

**VOICE 9:** I make crosses and I hammer nails for a living. I'm a curiosity when people have had one too many and want to know what it's like to nail flesh to wood.

I never tell them. I just say, as long as society wants rid of what offends them, we will need people like me to do the dirty work.

We wouldn't need sanitation workers if there was no garbage. We wouldn't need sewage workers, if there was no waste. And we wouldn't need people like me to make crosses and hammer nails, if we didn't need to get rid of people we don't want.

(sound of hammering)

Take this Jesus... if people didn't need to get rid of him, he wouldn't be crucified.

What amazes me... and I speak as someone who has seen a thousand executions... is why he has to die, why they want rid of him.

I've had rapists swear at me. I've had murderers spit at me. I've had thieves stare at me. But I've never had anybody look at me through their tears and say, "I forgive you."

And I believe he does forgive me.

But what about the others... what about all those who have pushed him out... who have helped him onto the cross... do they believe that he forgives them?

(sound of hammering)

**John:**

**VOICE 1:** After they had nailed him, they raised the cross and everyone saw him. I was at the back of the crowd with his mother. She moved nearer to the front, so I went with her.

I heard all he said... I heard him cry out in thirst... I heard him promise paradise to the thief...

It was quiet, no one wanted to speak. It was as if the crowd had found its conscience too late.

And then I saw him look at his mother and at me, and he told us we belonged to each other.

(sound of hammering)

**Woman prays:**

**VOICE 5:** Lord Jesus, remember me.

Two thousand miles and two thousand years stretch between now and Calvary. But nothing separates you from me.

Your crucifixion is not in the past, it is here and now. It is required, because in a thousand ways, I betray you, deny you, wash my hands of you and condemn you.

And all the goodness that I might have, and all the good works that I might do, and all the right decisions that I might make, will never come to be, unless I accept what I am – one of your persecutors; so I ask your forgiveness that I might become one of your friends.

## **SONG 288 (v 1-2) "Were You There"**

### **EPILOGUE**

(sound of music 'Passacaglia from Henry V')

**John** (voice over music)

**VOICE 1:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the word became flesh... because God loved the world so much that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

God sent his son into the world, not to be its judge, but to be its savior.

That's why he said, 'follow me... I am the way... believe me... I am the truth... accept me...

I am the life... you did not choose me... I chose you.'

(pause)

And one day, with eyes wide open, and knowing what lay ahead, he said the words on which my hope rests (if today I can have any hope)...

"Unless a single grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies... it produces many grains."

And then he went on, "Those who love their lives, will lose their lives; but those who lose their lives for my sake, will keep their lives for eternity. Whoever wants to serve me must follow me... and remember... I am with you always..."

(music fades)

## **SONG 298 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"**

(people may remain seated and listen to the music or leave quietly)