

## **GOOD FRIDAY 2020**

*You will need a cross which can be just a couple of sticks joined by string or glue of rubber bands placed on a small table covered with a cloth.*

*You will also need some flower petals and some pebbles or stones (at least one per person). If you have any CD's or downloaded songs you might like to find recordings of Good Friday hymns like 'There is a green hill' or 'When I survey the wondrous cross'.*

### **GREETING:**

We gather again on this Good Friday at the foot of the cross  
which calls us on, not in shame, not in fear  
but more deeply into the costly journey towards life.  
There is wounding, there is weeping.  
In Jesus Christ, God is not separated from that.

### **PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

O Jesus Christ, on this day of all days,  
we almost fear to invite you to show your face among us.  
What if we see its pain and its dignity?  
What if we know in who we are in ways which are more than we can bear?  
And yet, in shaking faith, we do pray that we will find you here today,  
in all your awesome truth, in all your authentic life.  
For this is Good Friday, the gospel for all the world. Amen.

**Reading 1: John 18:12-27** (*Jesus before the scribes and elders, Peter's denial*)

**SUNG OR READ RESPONSE:** TIS 730; **Jesus, remember me**

**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom**  
**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.**

**Reading 2: John 18:28 – 19:16a** (*Jesus before Pilate*)

**SUNG RESPONSE:** TIS 730; **Jesus, remember me**

### **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

What part of ourselves is found in the shadow of the mob that streamed to Calvary?  
What part of ourselves create nails in other forms that wound our brothers and sisters-  
and our God? Complicity, apathy, guilt oppress us and stifle our joy;  
let us bring our sins to God in genuine repentance and discover what God will do for us!

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Ever-living and ever-loving God, how frayed our lives have become,  
a collection of loose ends, tarnished glories, and hazy dreams!  
We have not kept our eyes upon your saving cross  
nor listened with undivided attention to your voice.  
We have not sought your presence among the destitute  
nor accepted ourselves as persons for whom you died.  
Stretch our boundaries, stir our hearts, and inflame our souls  
to behold you in every fragment of life,  
to feel you in every moment in time,  
and to serve you in every occasion with obedience and joy. Amen.

*James T. Fatzinger and Allen P. Happe in Touch Holiness, p.65*

### **MOVING TOWARDS OURSELVES:**

God in Christ, you travel with us in faith toward the hard places in our souls.  
You know the agony of pain, guilt and hurt deep within us.  
You know our frightened faces, often hidden from ourselves.  
You know the violence sometimes hurled in anger  
because we feel powerless to take the small steps to freedom.  
You know the grief sometimes lying there embalmed  
and perfumed by our resolve to remain victims forever.  
There are stumbling blocks within ourselves in our travelling, O God.

We take these stones and lay them at the foot of your cross  
which is able to bear the weight and the wounding for us.

*Take the stones/pebbles which represent your hard things,  
and leave them at the foot of the cross.*

We leave these hard things here on our way through life.

*Silence*

### **Reading 3: John 19: 16b-30 (the Crucifixion: Jesus' death)**

'When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.'

So, Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud,  
and put it in his own new tomb  
which he had hewn out of the rock.  
He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

*Short silence.*

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

Dear God, like Joseph or Arimathea we come,  
but not very bravely, to share with you in the cherishing of the truth in our day.  
We pray for those whom we see defending justice and truth and compassion,  
especially for those who are paying a high price for their stance.  
We pray for them, where ever they are in the world:  
Stand with them in truth in our day, Jesus Christ.  
Walk before them in hope and inspiration, O God.

We pray for those in our own country who invite us to look at the truth:  
Stand with them in truth in our day, Jesus Christ.  
Walk before them in hope and inspiration, O God.

We pray for ourselves, in our small hopes for witnessing to your gospel:  
Stand with us in truth in our day, Jesus Christ.  
Walk before us in hope and inspiration, O God.

O God, the wonder is that, even in dying,  
you speak to us in passionate ways  
and call us on to new possibilities.  
Stay with us, Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
who chooses to die rather than give up love. Amen.

## THE CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, and Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Many women were watching from a distance. Among them were the mother of Zebedee's sons, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph.

These women, who had travelled with Jesus from Galilee and looked after him, were following behind.

Mary watched the death of her innocent child and held him in her arms.

We remember the death of our innocent selves.

We remember the death of innocent, fragile things in the world around us.

*Take the flower petals to the cross and sprinkle them over it.*

Jesus said, 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.'

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

As we also commend ourselves into the hands of God,  
let us say what we believe.

We believe in God.

When there was nothing but an ocean of tears,  
God sighed over the waters  
and dreamed a small dream:  
light in the darkness  
a small planet in space.

We believe in Jesus Christ.

When hate and fear were raging,  
when love was beaten down,  
when hope was nailed and left to die,  
Christ entered into our deep secret places  
and went down into our death to find us.

We believe in the Holy Spirit  
who weeps with us in our despair,  
who breathes on prison doors,  
never admitting it's hopeless,  
always expecting the bars to bend and sway  
and break forth into blossom.

They took note of the tomb and of the position of the body.  
Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.  
And on the Sabbath day they rested.

## COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

Go in quiet faith to walk the way towards the hope of Easter Day  
and our meeting with the risen Christ.  
And may we dare to look all deathliness in the face,  
and find the love of God waiting there behind it,  
calling us to follow down the dark reaches of our life  
into the safe arms of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Call to Worship by Terry Falla in Be our Freedom Lord, p.332; Prayer of Invocation and Prayers of Intercession (adapted) by Dorothy Mcrae-McMahon in Liturgies for Daily Life, pp.36, 38-9; Call*

to Confession and Prayer of Confession by James T. Fatzinger and Allen P. Happe in Touch Holiness, p.65; Commissioning and Benediction by Dorothy McRae-McMahon from Liturgies for High Days, p.87; Rest of the service based on Liturgy for Good Friday 1 by Dorothy McRae-McMahon in Echoes of our Journey, p.93

