



Good Friday April 7th, 2023 The Fig Tree Worship Resource

Gathering & Lighting the Candle

God, shine your light among us.

Today is a day where your light is threatened by the powers of darkness.

God, shine your light among us.

Shine it into our darkness, where we fear what the powers can do.

God, shine your light among us.

Shine it for the sake of justice shining light on greed, power and hate.

God, shine your light among us.

Shine it to light our stumbling ways that we find courage to follow today ...

God, shine your light among us.

A candle is lit.

We light a candle, and as its fragile flickering flame pushes back the darkness, we hear the story of Jesus - confronting the darkness, in order to defeat it.

God, shine your light among us.

Acknowledging



As we gather, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land and these waters. We pay respect to elders past, present and emerging. As First and Second Peoples walking together, we commit ourselves to be people of the covenant, listening, truth telling and seeking justice for all.

Reading notes

The readings for today are lengthy, especially the gospel passage. This liturgy focusses on the John's telling of Jesus' arrest, betrayal and crucifixion. It is set into smaller parts with encouragement to use different voices in its telling.

For example, in the first part of John 18:

Narrator: Jesus went out with his disciples to a place where there was a garden. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples.

So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them,

Jesus: 'For whom are you looking?'

Judas and company: 'Jesus of Nazareth.'

...

A good online bible resource is:

<https://bible.oremus.org>

If you wish to add in other passages set for today, they are:

Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 12,

Psalm 22,

Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 &

John 18: 1 – 19: 42

Call to worship

We gather today to hear the story of the incarceration, trial, and execution of Jesus. We gather to hear Jesus declare himself, submit himself, and pray for himself.

We gather to offer ourselves to the events of this hour.

Lord hear us, **Lord, hear our prayer.**



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Listening – John 18:1-12

Voices: Narrator, Jesus, Judas & company

Singing:

TIS 256 'From heaven you came, helpless babe'
verses 1, 2

Listening - John 18:13-18

Voices: Narrator, Woman, Peter

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Listening - John 18:19–24

Voices: Narrator, Jesus, Police

Singing:

TIS 356 'Here hangs a man discarded' verse 1

Listening - John 18:25

Voices: Narrator, Crowd, Peter

Singing:

TIS 356 'Here hangs a man discarded' verse 2

Listening - John 18:26-27

Voices: Narrator, Slave, Peter

Singing:

TIS 356 'Here hangs a man discarded' verse 3

Listening - John 18:28-32

Voices: Narrator, Pilate, Jews

Singing:

TIS 356 'Here hangs a man discarded' verse 4

Listening - John 18:33-39

Voices: Narrator, Pilate, Jesus

Singing:

TIS 356 'Here hangs a man discarded' verse 5

Listening - John 18:40

Voices: Narrator, Crowd

Singing:

TIS 356 'Here hangs a man discarded' verse 6

Prayer

Eternal God,
whose love to us is constant and true;
steadfast and unchanging;
giving and giving again;
we praise you for Jesus Christ,
Son of your love,
who in his grace to us,
would not save himself,
but gave himself up for us all.

For the wonder of your love in him,
unconquered, unyielding;
giving himself unreservedly, completely,



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for a world gone wrong:
we bow in silence.

For the goodness of a Man who remained true
when the friendship of others turned rotten;
when human justice was founded in wrong;
when human truth was distorted by lies:
we bow in silence.

For the anguish he suffered:
the loss and betrayal of friends;
the all-present sense of evil around him
in accusation, torture and death:
the loneliness and abandonment:
we bow in silence.

God, help us
to know the victory of the cross
as he followed your purposes
and pursued his mission to the very end.
We bow in silence.

You did not allow his voice to be lost in the grave;
nor his glorious light to be quenched by
human darkness and death.
By raising him from the dead
you kindled faith,
filled the future with hope
and flooded human existence
with the power of your love:
stronger than death,
triumphant for ever and ever.
Amen

- words by Rev. Ron Gordon
(from *Dad & Daughter* p26 © 2012)

Listening - John 19:1-7

Voices: Narrator, Crowd, Pilate

Singing:

TIS 730 'Jesus remember me'

Listening - John 19:8-11

Voices: Narrator, Jesus, Pilate

Singing:

TIS 730 'Jesus remember me'

Listening - John 19:12-16

Voices: Narrator, Crowd, Pilate

Singing:

TIS 339 'O sacred head sore wounded'
verse 1 & 2

Listening - John 19:17-25a

Voices: Narrator, Soldiers

Singing:

TIS 339 'O sacred head sore wounded'
Verse 3

Listening - John 19:25b-30

Voices: Narrator, Jesus

You may choose to extinguish the Christ Candle.

A silence is kept.

Reflection – It is finished

it is finished
because death does that
draws a line
interrupts the conversation

conversation sponsored by
book-ended breathing
in for nascent cry
out for when you die

and all the ins and outs of life
are mocking rehearsals
of the first and final one



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and yet they hold
candles to darkness
hope to despair
pain, prophesy and passion
within and without words
sweet, sacramental,
borrowed breath

and we who are captured,
caught between
in and out
wonder how
the eternal living word
could ever possibly say
it is finished
because it was
but it wasn't and never is

- words by Rev. Jennie Gordon
(from *Dad & Daughter* p26 © 2012)

Listening - John 19:31-42

Voice: Narrator

Singing:

TIS 339 'O sacred head sore wounded'
verse 4

A silence is kept.

Sending Out

As an option you may wish to re-light the Christ candle (if you extinguished it earlier) and acknowledge that the light of Christ shines even in the darkest of places.

We leave today with a story without an ending. This time is liminal, it is unresolved. It exposes the pain of the world and leaves us facing all that the powers can do.

So, in this time of in-between, a place of vigil, we offer our prayers of hope and light for the world. And we allow the Scriptures to uphold us until we meet again on the third day.

Listening - Hebrews 10:16-25

After the reading we depart in silence

'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds',

he also adds,

'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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Wild Fig Tree Lenten Resource - Holy Week April 3-8, 2023

Holy Week Invitation:

Here's the final week in our Wild Fig Tree Lenten Resource. Find a quiet place. Come with an open heart, mind, ears and eyes and let the Spirit lead you.

Monday April 3rd

Matthew 26:17-18 On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.'"

*I am your true shepherd / I will lead you there
Beside still waters*

*Come and meet me in the middle of the air
I will meet you in the middle of the air*

*I will lay you down / In pastures green and fair
Every soul shall be restored*

I will meet them in the middle of the air

*Come and meet me in the middle of the air
Through the lonesome valley*

My rod and staff you'll bear

Fear not death's dark shadow

Come and meet me in the middle of the air

Paul Kelly, from Psalm 23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g34-nB3oym4>

Tuesday April 4th

Matthew 26:20-25 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

Just like a wave on the ocean

There's forces that run so deep

I'm falling into the temptation / To let it wash all over me

Come and wash me clean...

Bernard Fanning, Wash me clean

<https://genius.com/Bernard-fanning-wash-me-clean-lyrics>

Wednesday April 5th

Matthew 26:26-28 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come*

*'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home,*

John Newton, Amazing Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MVORrx9jiiE>

Maundy Thursday April 6th

Matthew 26:36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."

Stay with me, the night has come,

stay with me, the night has come,

stay with me, the night has come

and soon it will be morning,

and soon it will be morning. - David Biorlin.

<https://www.giamusic.com/store/resource/stay-with-me-the-night-has-come-pdf-d1010135>

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Matthew 27:35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him.

Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,

my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,

And I have promised, promised to be always near

John Bell ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7e-c8NP7cY8>

Saturday April 8th

Matthew 27:65 Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

Listen

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