

TENEBRAE SERVICE
offered by Reverend Kathleen C. Rolenz
West Shore UU Church

GATHERING MUSIC

SOUNDING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

UNISON INVOCATION

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

THE DARKNESS BEGINS

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FIRST CANDLE

THE PASSOVER (SEDER) MEAL

Reading from an Ancient Source

²⁰When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ^c ²¹and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' ²³He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The 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.' ²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

Reading from a Modern Source

Passover

Mary Rose O'Reilley

Art is what remains when the pot is broken."

—Chinese proverb

I know we are bound to the earth,
and the cracked heart, old terra cotta,
surrenders to vine.

Listen—I've seen
wind stir the hair of the dead at Belsen,
growing like art from the lacing grass;

what is terrible, even, rises.
The ruined pot dreams of ignition,
each molecule coddles its flame.

Enough alphabet for a torah
sits on the tongue. And all shards
from the winds' end gather again.

I know we are bound to the earth
by desire's green thread
or the milk snake's slippery pass.

Hepatica splits now from its leaf-wing.
Out of the vessel's wreck,
inwardness forms on the air

and that ghost tenderly enters
the soul of some mortal thing.

CHORALE

EXTINGUISHING OF THE SECOND CANDLE

DENIAL

Reading from an Ancient Source: Matthew 26: 31-35

31 Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."³² But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.'³³ Peter said to him, 'Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.'³⁴ Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.'³⁵ Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples.

Reading from a Modern Source *The Companionable Dark*

Kathleen Norris

Of here and now,
seed lying dormant in the earth.
The dark to which all lost things come—scarves and rings and previous photographs,
and of course, our beloved
dead. The brooding dark,
our most vulnerable hours, limbs loose in sleep, mouths agape.
The faithful dark,
where each door leads each one of us, alone.
The dark of God come close as breath, our one companion all the way through, the dark
of a needles' eye.

Not the easy dark
of dusk and candles,
but dark from which comforts flee.
The deep down dark of one by one,
dark of wind
and dust, dark in which stars burn.
The floodwater dark of hope, Jesus in agony in the garden,
Esther pacing her bitter palace. A dark
by which we see, dark like truth, like flesh on bone:
Help me, who am alone,
and have no help but thee.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE THIRD CANDLE

HYMN #101 Abide with me,
Abide with me fast falls the eventide.
the darkness deepens, still with me abide.
when other helpers fail and comforts flee
help of the helpless oh abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day.
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away,
Change and decay in all around I see
O thou who changes not, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless,
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FOURTH CANDLE

PRAYER

Reading from an Ancient Source: Mark 14: 32 – 41

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' 33 He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. 34 And said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' 35 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.' 37 He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour?' 38 Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' 39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. 40 And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. 41 He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

Hymn "Stay with Me, Wait with Me, Watch & Pray...watch and pray" —Music from the Taize Community.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FIFTH CANDLE

INTERROGATION

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' 34 Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' 35 Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' 36 Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be

fighting to keep me from being handed over... But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.’
³⁷Pilate asked him, ‘So you are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.’ ³⁸Pilate asked him, ‘What is truth?’

Modern Source **Thou Art Indeed Just Lord**, Gerard Manley Hopkins Kathleen Rolenz

Thou art indeed just Lord, if I contend with Thee,
But sir, so what I plead is just.
Why do sinner’s ways prosper, and disappointment all I endeavor end?
Wert Thou my enemy, O Thou my friend
How wouldst thou worse, than thou dost, defeat, thwart me?
O the sots and thralls of lust do in spare hours more thrive
than I sir, that spend life upon thy cause.
See banks and brakes, now leaved, how thick!
laced they are again with fretty chervil, look, and fresh wind shakes them.
Birds build, but not I build no—but strain,
and not breed one work that wakes.
Mine, O Thou Lord of Life, send my roots rain.

Hymn Precious Lord, Take My Hand

EXECUTION

16 Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began saluting him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ ¹⁹They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him

Chorale “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

THE CROSS *Psalm 22: 12*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

"Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver-- let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.
Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;
They open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.
I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is
melted within my breast;
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the
dust of death.
For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have
shriveled;
I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;
they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!

EXTINGUISHING OF THE EIGHT CANDLE

READING FROM A MODERN SOURCE

CRUCIFIXION—HAYDEN CARRUTH

You understand the colors on the hillside have faded, we have the gray and brown and
lavendar of late autumn,
the apple and pear trees have lost their leaves, the mist of November is often with us,
especially in the afternoon and toward evening, as it was today when I sat gazing up
into the orchard for a long time the way I do now,
thinking of how I died last winter and was revived.
And I tell you I saw there a cross with a man nailed to it, silvery in the mist, and I said to
him: Are you the Christ?
And he must have heard me, for in his agony, tiwsted as he was, he nodded his heard
affirmatively, up and down, once and twice. And a little way off I saw anotehr cross
with another man nailed to it, tiwsting and nodding, and then another and another,
ranks and divisions of corss stragglng like exhausted legions upward among the misty
trees, each cross with a silvery, writing, twisting, nodding, naked figure nailed to it, and
some of them were women.
The hill was filled with crucifixion. Should I not be telling you this? Is it excessive? But I
know something about death now, I know how silent it is, silent, when when the pain is
shrieking and screaming. And tonight is very silent and very dark. When I looked I
saw nothing out there, only my own reflected head nodding a little in the window glass.
It was as if the Christ had nodded to me, all those writhing silvery imgaes on the
hillside, and after a while I nodded back to him.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE NINTH CANDLE

DEATH Luke 23: 33-46

And when they came to the place which is called The Skull. There they crucified him, and
the criminals, on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for
they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people
stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying "He saved others, let him save
himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One." The solders also mocked him, coming
up and offering him vinegar and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"
There was also an inscription over him. This is the King of Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong. And he said, Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom. And he said to him, Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

It was not about the sixth hour and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice said, Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE TENTH CANDLE

SOLO: "Were You There" –African American Spiritual

EXTINGUISHING OF THE ELEVENTH CANDLE

THE TWELFTH AND FINAL CANDLE IS CARRIED OUT OF THE ROOM

THE DARKNESS IS COMPLETE

PRAYER

RETURN OF THE LIGHT

SHARING COMMUNION

HYMN#406 *Let us Break Bread Together*

UNISON PRAYER *Psalms 23—New King James Version*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE