



## The Presbyterian Church in Morristown

---

April 14, 2017

*Good Friday*

---

### Gather in Silence

### Meditation in Song

*We will sing each of these simple songs many times as meditation and prayer. As we sing, feel free to move about the space to contemplate the images on display.*

*Bless the Lord (#544)*

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name. Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

*Stay With Me (#204)*

**Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray. Watch and pray.**

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer (#471)*

**O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.**

### Betrayal

Matthew 26:14-16

### Confession (*unison*)

**Forgive our Judas hearts, O Merciful Savior, and the ways large and small that we betray you for the flashy lure of earthly treasure and glory. Forgive our fearful flight from you when the world's anger and hate-filled violence threaten us for being disciples. Have mercy on us for crucifying so many of your beloved children with our privilege, our greed, and our denial of injustice for the sake of our own comfort. Break our hearts open with your love, that as we sit at the foot of your cross this night, we may know the miracle of your grace and arise transformed.**

## Silence

*Reflect on your burdens, sins, concerns, and all you need to lay before God. Use the index card to capture your thoughts in a few words or sketches.*

## Reflection

*Within Our Darkest Night (#294)*

**Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire  
that never dies away, never dies away.**

## Trial

Matthew 27: 11-23

## Lament Psalm One, *by Ann Weems*

O God, have you forgotten my name?  
How long will you leave me  
in this pit?  
I sang hosannas  
all the days of my life  
and waved palm branches  
greened in the new spring world.  
Rich only in promises  
from you,  
I followed  
believing,  
and then they killed him  
whom I loved  
more than my own life  
(even that you taught me).  
They killed him  
whom you gave to me.  
They killed him  
without a thought  
for justice or mercy,  
and I sit now in darkness  
hosannas stuck in my throat . . .

Why should I wave palm branches  
or look for Easter mornings?  
O God, why did you name me Rachel?

A cry goes up out of Ramah,  
and it is *my* cry!  
Rachel will not be comforted!  
Don't you hear me,  
you whose name is Emmanuel?  
Won't you come to me?  
How long must I wait  
on this bed of pain  
without a candle  
to ward off the night?

Come, Holy One,  
feed to me a taste of your shalom.  
Come, lift to my lips  
a cup of cold water  
that I might find my voice  
to praise you  
here in the pit.  
Pull forth the hosannas  
from my parched lips,  
and I will sing to all  
of your everlasting goodness,  
for then the world will know that  
my God is a God of promise  
who comes to me  
in my darkness.

## Bearing the Cross

Matthew 27:27-32

## **Simon the Cyrenian Speaks, by Countee Cullen**

He never spoke a word to me,  
And yet He called my name;  
He never gave a sign to me,  
And yet I knew and came.  
At first I said, "I will not bear  
His cross upon my back;  
He only seeks to place it there  
Because my skin is black."

But He was dying for a dream,  
And He was very meek,  
And in His eyes there shone a gleam  
Men journey far to seek.

It was Himself my pity bought;  
I did for Christ alone  
What all of Rome could not have wrought  
With bruise of lash or stone.

## **Crucifixion**

Matthew 27: 33-51

## **Ritual Action**

*Jesus invites us to lay down our burdens at the foot of his cross. As we sing, you may bring forward your folded index card and bury it beneath the rocks at the foot of the cross or nail it to the cross itself using the pins provided. No one will read what you've written and all cards will be destroyed after the service.*

## **Song**

*Jesus, Remember Me (#227)*

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

## **Burial**

Matthew 27: 57-61

## **Song of the Winding Sheet, by Jan Richardson**

We never  
would have wished it  
to come to this  
yet we call  
these moments holy  
as we hold you

Holy the tending  
holy the winding  
holy the leaving  
as in the living

Holy the silence  
holy the stillness  
holy the turning  
and returning to earth.

Blessed is the one  
who came  
in the name

blessed is the one  
who laid  
himself down

blessed is the one  
emptied for us

blessed is the one  
wearing the shroud.

Holy the waiting  
holy the grieving  
holy the shadows  
and gathering night

Holy the darkness  
holy the hours  
holy the hope  
turning toward light.

**Hymn #228** (*quietly*)

*Were You There*

*Were You There*

### **Silent Reflection**

*When you are ready, please depart in silence.*



### ***The Presbyterian Church in Morristown***

*Sanctuary and Chapel: 57 East Park Place,*

*Parish House and Offices: 65 South Street,*

*Morristown, NJ 07960*

*(973) 538-1776 [www.pcmorristown.org](http://www.pcmorristown.org)*