



## Silent Meditation

God's very being is mercy.

The mercy of God lies in God's readiness to share in sympathy the distress of another, a readiness which springs from God's inmost nature and stamps all God's being and doing... And this, of course, is why we are able to face, acknowledge, accept and live through suffering, for we know that it can never be ultimate, it can never constitute the bottom line.

God is at the foundation and God is at the boundaries.

~ Eugene Peterson

(Jesus) calls us... "to ruin our lives, to break our hearts,  
to love the wrong person and to die."

We are invited to ruin the old life of silence, to break our hearts with compassion  
over suffering,

to love the wrong person—that would be Jesus—and to die.

As (was) said to me last week, "to get resurrected ya gotta get dead." Because we know, from Jesus's example, and from our own lives, what lies on the other side of that death. The other side of silence and distraction, of the deadly life of business

as usual,  
is new life, resurrected life, born of compassion - awake and broken-hearted, and,  
yes, dangerous. Take up your cross."

~ Nora Gallagher

**HOLY COVENANT UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
PALM AND PASSION SUNDAY**

**APRIL 14, 2019**

**10:55 AM**

Gathering Room Assembly

*(We will begin worship in the Gathering Room and process together into the sanctuary, carrying our palms forward and placing them at the altar.)*

**\* Call to Worship**

Nancy Ellett Allison

**One:** Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Living God!

**Many:** **We raise our voices and wave with joyful hope the palms of deliverance for all! Hosanna to the Son of David!**

**One:** Humble and riding on a donkey, our hearts are filled with expectation as we welcome the Holy One

**Many:** **We greet you; Hosanna in the highest!**

**One:** Acclaimed by crowds and caroled by children,

**Many:** **We receive into the crowded streets of our lives the one who is Savior of all the earth. We cheer you; Hosanna in the highest!**

**One:** Moving from the peace of the countryside to the corridors of power,

**All:** **We salute you: Hosanna in the highest! Christ our Lord!**

**\* Processional Hymn "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"**

ST. THEODULPH

*Refrain: All glory, laud and honor to you, O Christ we sing,  
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.*

**O promised One of Israel, of David's royal line, the one called "God's beloved," of flesh and yet divine. *Refrain***

**The people of the Hebrews with palms before you went;  
Our praise and prayer and anthems before you we present. *Refrain***

**To you before your passion they sang their hymns of praise;  
To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. *Refrain***

**As you received their praises; receive our prayers today,  
Whose justice and whose mercy and sovereignty hold sway. *Refrain***

**The company of angels is praising you on high,  
And we with all creation in chorus make reply. *Refrain***

*\* All rise in body or spirit ☩ Sing Response*

Welcome and Announcements

Nancy Ellett Allison

*(Please pass the information pads so that all worshippers might have the opportunity to sign them)*

Children's Offering & Message

Nancy Ellett Allison

*(Following the Children's Message, preschoolers go to extended care and those in kindergarten through fifth grade to Children's Church.)*

Prayer of Confession

Fred Robinson

One: The worshiping crowds wanted a forceful leader.

**Many: Too often, we continue to place our trust in force and warriors and weaponry.**

One: The people wanted a political solution where Jesus would use power to establish control.

**Many: We too trust more in power than peace and nonviolence.**

One: The Hebrews identified their oppressors as evil.

**Many: Though we know better, we too are inclined to divide the world into good and evil people.**

One: Gracious Jesus, may we catch a glimpse of your humility on this Palm Sunday; do not pass us by but stay and invade the inward citadels of our souls with your ways of peace and justice.

**All: Correct us where we go astray. Assist us with the challenge of loving the unlovable which includes our enemies. Help us learn how to transcend the differences we have and acquire the art of reconciliation and forgiveness. Let your mind be within us, bring peace to our souls, O Prince of Peace.**

*Silent Confession*

Assurance of Grace

Fred Robinson

One: Christ came riding a donkey of humility and reconciliation, not a charging war horse of judgment. Through Christ's love and peace we are forgiven!

**Many: Thanks be to God!**



\* Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

φ **Our God is making all things new,  
A promise that we know is true.  
Through eyes of faith we long to see  
A love-transformed community. Amen.**

\* Offertory Dedication

Nancy Ellett Allison

## **PALM & PASSION NARRATIVE**

Lighting of the Palm & Passion Candles

### **FIRST MEDITATION**

Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Luke 19:29-39

Song of Reflection "Hosanna from Jesus Christ Superstar" Webber & Rice  
*The Chancel Choir*

Prayer

**One:** As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge our fickle nature and our tendency to falter under pressure.

*(a candle is extinguished.)* Let us pray:

**Many:** **Loving God, remind us of our need for faithfulness even, especially, in times of celebration. Amen.**

### **SECOND MEDITATION**

Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

Luke 22:39-46

Song of Reflection 456 "More Love to You, O Christ" MORE LOVE TO YOU  
*(verse 1)*

Prayer

**One:** As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge our lack of daily awareness of God's presence, and our inconsistency in being in the sacred moment.

*(a candle is extinguished.)* Let us pray:

**Many:** **Loving God, as we journey with you, give us strength and courage to be alert and aware of the sacred. Open our hearts and minds to your steadfast presence and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.**

### THIRD MEDITATION

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Luke 22:47-54

Song of Reflection 219 “Journey to Gethsemane”  
(*stanzas 1 and 2*)

REDHEAD No. 76

Prayer

**One:** As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge the lack of peace on earth and the reality of darkness and pain, of prejudice, discrimination, and betrayal in the world.

*(a candle is extinguished.)* Let us pray:

**Many:** Loving God, give us eyes of compassion, ears of justice, hearts and hands of peace so that we may do your work in this world. Amen.

### FOURTH MEDITATION

Peter Denies Jesus

Luke 22:54-62

\*Song of Reflection 223 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

WONDROUS LOVE

Prayer

**One:** As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge the sin of deceit and denial, the pain of regret and sorrow in the world.

*(a candle is extinguished.)* Let us pray:

**Many:** Loving God, forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. May our restless hearts continue to search until they find their rest in you. Amen.

## FIFTH MEDITATION

The Mocking and Beating of Jesus

Luke 22:63-71

Song of Reflection 226 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PASSION CHORALE

### Prayer

**One:** As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge the pain in this world caused by the absence of basic needs - lack of food, shelter, education, healthcare, love.

*(a candle is extinguished.)* Let us pray:

**Many:** Loving God, we thank you for your loving presence in our lives. We trust your promise to work with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Empower us to do your will in meeting the needs of others. Amen.

## SIXTH MEDITATION

Jesus Sentenced to Death

Luke 23:13-25

Song of Reflection 218 “Ah, Holy Jesus”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

### Prayer

**One:** As we extinguish this light, may we acknowledge the descending darkness, the reality of evil and the pain all suffer when we lack the courage to resist evil and its deadly consequences.

*(a candle is extinguished.)* Let us pray.

**Many:** Loving God, there are so many choices before us each day. Some of them encourage the well-being of the earth, our selves, and our neighbors; others are destructive. Help us to distinguish between them and follow the way of Christ who embodied non-violence, compassion and love. Amen.

## SEVENTH MEDITATION

\* The Crucifixion of Jesus

Luke 23:26, 32-38

\* Song of Reflection “And No Bird Sang” by Douglas E. Wagner

Calm was the wind and dark was the sky, when our Lord came to die;  
Lone on the cross for our sins he did hang, and no bird sang.

Women and men with anguish and fear, then to his cross drew near,  
drew near; Hushed then to feel the bitter pang,  
and no bird sang.

Kyrie eleison! Kyrie eleison!

Lord have mercy, God's will be done,  
Eleison!

No bird sang in the sky,  
when Christ did come to die.

\* Prayer

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and  
pain of violence in the world.

*(a candle is extinguished.)* Let us pray.

Many: Loving God, draw us together in your love. Give us strength  
and courage to resist the powers of evil in the world. Amen.

## EIGHTH MEDITATION

The Death of Jesus

Luke 23:44-53

Song of Reflection

“Were You There?”  
*Felicia Robinson, vocalist*

Prayer

One: As we extinguish the Christ light, may we acknowledge the  
darkness and pain of injustice in the world.

*(a candle is extinguished.)* Let us pray:

Many: Loving God, what we contemplate in the death of Jesus is  
beyond words, beyond understanding. May the Holy Spirit  
intercede for us and give voice to what, for us, is  
inexpressible. Amen.

\*Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

**When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died;  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**

**See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

\*Benediction

Nancy Ellett Allison

Postlude

David Gilliland

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HOLY COVENANT

**WELCOME** to all who worship today at Holy Covenant! Guests and members, please sign an attendance register and then pass it back to its starting point, taking note of who is worshipping near you and greet them.



### **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 6 PM**

Join us for our Maundy Thursday supper and shared communion around the tables at 6 PM.

**EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES, APRIL 21**  
***BRING FRESH FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS***

### **10:55 AM WORSHIP**

Through Song and Word, we will celebrate the joy of the Resurrection and new life. Special music will feature the Women's Ensemble, the Music Cooperative, vocalists and instrumentalists

### **BRING YOUR EGGS BY APRIL 14 FOR THE EASTER EGG HUNT**

For this year's Easter Egg Hunt we are asking folks to bring 1-2 dozen plastic eggs with goodies (no chocolate please). There is a drop box the gathering room to leave your filled eggs. If you can help, contact Miss Jennifer or Miss Jill in the Preschool.

### **EASTER EGG HUNT**

The Easter Egg Hunt with separate search sites for our older and younger children will follow our worship service.



**WE COULDN'T PROVIDE OUR WARM WELCOME WITHOUT THE HELP OF:**

Elder for April, Suzanne Lamorey, suzlam@yahoo.com or 704-654-7267

Deacons for April: Martha Bomely, Cheryl Milam

Greeters: Donna Collins, Lisa Sherman

Ushers: Kevin Edwards-Knight, Bob Saylor, Barb Schneller

Media: Brian Hankins, Lisa Cloninger

Tabulators: Terry Raley-Dennis, Dawn Simmons

Refreshments: Bill Tyler, Kim Tyler

Recyclers: Phil Kaveler

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

**Members**

Eileen Howe in the death of her sister, Becki Minich; Steven, Brittany and Owen Burleson, Gail Bushman, Frank & Charlotte Carbone, Kevin Decker, Linn Finger, Julie Klever, Helen Lambert, Karen Long, Irene Mikkelson, Sue & Bill Pascucci, Isabelle Reedy Powell, Caroline Utz

**Friends & Family Members**

Ray Adams (Linda Burby), Shane Christian (Beth Sharp), Amy Ciccone (Dawn Simmons), Ann Ebright (Julie Klever), Tammie & Charles Edenfield (Donna Collins), David & Cecelia Griffin (JP Griffin), Will & Addie May Hong (Jim Hong), Ron Mann (Robert Shepherd), Tony Morand (Lloyd & Gussie Spencer), David Owens (Donna Collins), Roshani Parikh (Nishi Griffin), Joe Robinson (Bill & Kim Tyler), Ken & Evelyn Sell (Robert Shepherd), Jessie Sharp (Terry Raley-Dennis), Chris Shepherd (Robert Shepherd), Cynthia & Tommy Simpson, Luz Soto (Aida Marcial), John Teague (Donna Collins), Kathryn Vickery (Ed Vickery), Gary West (John Rapp), Wanda Williams (John Rapp)