



To prepare for tonight's worship please find a quiet space,
turn the lights down low, maybe light a candle,
and have a paper and pen nearby.

I. Welcome

(Please pray aloud with the words in bold.)

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God showed his love for us in this: Christ dies with us.

Thanks be to God.

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Song: Lead Me to Calvary

Giver of life, we wait with you
to offer the hope that comes from the cross
to earth's darkest places.

Where pain is deep and affection is denied:

let love break through.

Where justice is destroyed,

let sensitivity to right spring up.

Where hope is crucified,

let faith persist.

Where peace has no chance.

let passion live on.

Where truth is trampled underfoot,

let the struggle continue.

Where fear paralyzes,

let forgiveness break through.

Eternal God, reach into the silent darkness of our souls
with the radiance of the cross.

O you who are the bearer of all pain,

have mercy on us.

Giver of life,

have mercy on us.

Merciful God,

have mercy on us.

Amen.

Song: I've Wondered at the Cross

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II. Betrayal One - Judas

Matthew 26: 47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him.

Jesus replied, "Do what you came for, friend." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. With that, one of Jesus' companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said to him, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, "Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Psalm 55:12-14, 20-21:

If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it;
if a foe were rising against me, I could hide.

But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,
with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God,
as we walked about among the worshippers.

My companion attacks his friends; he violates his covenant.
His talk is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart;
his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords.

A Prayer of Confession:

***Merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.***

We now invite you to take a moment to reflect, journal, or pray through the following questions...

- In what ways have you not loved your neighbor as yourself?
- In what ways have you betrayed those closest to you?
- What do you need to confess before your Lord today?

Song: Tis a Point I Long to Know

A Prayer of Confession (cont'd):

***In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.***

Song: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



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III. Betrayal Two - Peter

Luke (22:54-62)

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."
"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

"You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus."
"I never knew him."

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"You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus."
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"You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus."
"I never knew him."

We now invite you to take a moment to reflect, journal, or pray through the following questions...

- What stops you from acknowledging Jesus in your life?
- When do you find yourself embarrassed to stand by your faith?
- Are you afraid to pray?

Song: Were You There

Song: O Sacred Head Now Wounded

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IV. Betrayal Three - Forsaken

Matthew 27:38-50

Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

Psalm 22 :1-2, 8-11

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
 Why are you so far from saving me,
 so far from my cries of anguish?
 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
 by night, but I find no rest.
 You brought me out of the womb,
 you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.
 From birth I was cast on you;
 from my mother's womb you have been my God.
 Do not be far from me,
 for trouble is near and there is no one to help."

As we listen through the next two songs, take a moment to reflect, journal, or pray through the following questions...

- In what ways do you feel betrayed & forsaken by God?

Song: Forsaken Me

- In what ways do you run from your loneliness?

Song: Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley

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V. Closing

Philippians 2:3-8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

SONG: O Mourn with me a while

A Closing Benediction:

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet
walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands
stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart
open your hearts to love.

May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,
and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.

Amen.