



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Friday, March 29, 2024



Good Friday Tenebrae: Service of Shadows

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Music Director: James McLauchlan
Pianist: Mary Anderson

GATHERING

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

ONE: The people stood yelling,

ALL: "Crucify!"

ONE: and it breaks our hearts every time.

For Jesus' death occurs every time someone
is ignored, mistreated, oppressed.

ALL: "Crucify!"

ONE: tears away at God's Beloved.

Opening Hymn: VU #136 *O Come and Mourn with Me Awhile*
(please stand as you are able)

THE SHADOWS

First of the Shadows: John 18:1-14; 19-24 - read by Sharon Veer
Jesus is Betrayed & Arrested

Hymn: VU #133 *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (verse 1)
(please remain seated)

Second of the Shadows: John 18:15-18; 25-27 - read by James McLauchlan
Peter denies Jesus

A Prayer of Reconciliation for Good Friday

Holy Mystery,

Ground of our Being,

on this Good Friday morning

**it seems as if our whole world is engulfed in shadows
as we remember the story of Jesus' death.**

We confess that we want to push the fast-forward button
on this familiar story because it hurts so much.

It hurts to think of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

It hurts to imagine Jesus abandoned and suffering on the cross
with only a faithful few watching him breathe his last breath.

It hurts to watch your light overtaken by the shadows of the world.

But we must find our place in this crucifixion story and feel the pain that is there:

the pain of the world, of faithless decision, of betrayal, of injustice.

Jesus entered that pain out of faithfulness to you and to us,

to witness to the Truth that is Justice, Wholeness and Love.

We confess, we are afraid to enter this pain with Jesus.

Strengthen us with your courage;

Offer glimpses of hope in the shadows of death;

Let us know you are present with us here in this moment of pain;

Now as always.

Assurance of Blessing

Beloved followers of Jesus, it is OK to feel hurt and uncomfortable
as you enter into this story and
imagine your place in it.

Know that the Holy Mystery meets you in this story,
with comfort as well as challenge;
with courage as well as love.

Third of the Shadows: John 18:28-38a - read by Ila Wilms
Trial of Jesus before Pilate

Hymn: VU #133 *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (verse 2)
(please remain seated)

Fourth of the Shadows: John 18:38b-19:16a - read by Jim Pratt
Jesus is Condemned to Death

Hymn: VU #133 *Go to Dark Gethsemane* (verse 3)
(please remain seated)

Fifth of the Shadows: John 19:16b-27 - read by Janet Keene
From the Cross, Jesus Calls Forth Beloved Community

Prayers of the People

Sixth of the Shadows: John 19:28-30 - read by Annette Taylor
Jesus Dies

Hymn: VU #135 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*
(please stand as you are able)

Reflection: *Forgiveness*

Special Music: *Father, Forgive Them* - sung by Harold Lapuz
- words & music by Claire Cloninger

Seventh of the Shadows: John 19:38-42 - read by Fran Jackson
Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

PRAYERFUL RECESS

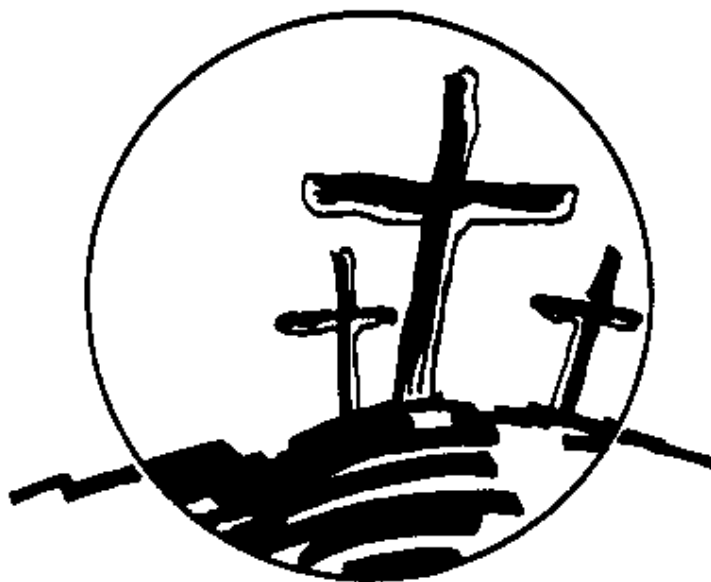
Commissioning & Benediction

(Please Leave the Service in Silence)

Tenebrae: Service of Shadows, Prayers for Good Friday was written by the Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, Conference Minister for Missouri Mid-South, UCC.

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All scripture readings were read from: The Inclusive Bible – The First Egalitarian Translation



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