**SALT Parish**

**Good Friday: A Service of Shadows and Stones**

**April 2, 2021**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Gathering Words**

P**:** All you who pass this way
***C: Look and see, the shadow of sin***

P**:** All you who pass this way
***C: Look and see the weight of the world***

P**:** All you who pass this way
***C: Look and see, the suffering of our Savior.***

P**:** All you who pass this way
***C: Look and see, the sorrow of Jesus Christ***P**:** Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

**Shadow of Condemnation** *Reading:*[***Luke 23:32-34***](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72806993)

32Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. 33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

**Prayer:**
Forgiving Christ, when the world condemns us, when wrong is done to us, when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come along side us in the darkness, and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving. Amen.

*(Silence)*

***Song: “Go to Dark Gethsemane”***  *Hymn #347*

Vs. 1 Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the temper’s pow'r;
 your Redeemer’s conflict see. Watch with him one bitter hour;
 turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Vs. 2 Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
 oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
 Shun not suff'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Vs. 3 Calv'ry’s mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
 mark the miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
 “It is finished!” hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

**Shadow of Separation** *Reading:*[***Luke 23:35-43***](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807012)

35And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” 36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” 39One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” 40But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

**Prayer:**
Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world that is not at peace, people who are not whole. You reached out to the thief, you welcomed him to God’s side. Come alongside us in the darkness, and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken. Amen.

*(Silence)*

***Song: “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”***  Hymn #337

Vs. 1 Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov'reign die?
 Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

Vs. 2 Was it for sins that I have done he groaned upon the tree?
 Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!

Vs. 3 Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut its glories in
 when God, the mighty maker, died for his own creatures’ sin.

**Shadow of Sorrow** *Reading:*[***John 19:25-27***](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807054)

25And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” 27Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

**Prayer:**Loving Jesus, we carry the weight of the people we love, concern for their sorrows and suffering. Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do. Come alongside us in the darkness, and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands. Amen.

*(Silence)*

***Song: “Ah, Holy Jesus”***  *Hymn #349*

Vs.1 Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended that we to

 judge thee have in hate pretended? By foes derided,

 by thine own rejected, O most afflicted.

Vs. 2 Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my

 treason, Jesus, hath undone thee. 'Twas I, Lord Jesus,

 I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

**Shadow of Despair** *Reading:*[***Mark 5:33-34***](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807076)

33But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. 34He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

**Prayer:**
Lord Jesus Christ, you know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God’s presence. Come alongside us in the darkness, and help us call out for God. Amen.

*(Silence)*

***Song: “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”*** *3 verses* Hymn #335

Vs. 1 Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
 free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

***Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
 till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.***

Vs. 2 Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
 there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
 help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. ***[Refrain]***

**Shadow of Suffering** *Reading:*[***John 19:28-30***](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807104)

28After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” 29A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. 30When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**Prayer:**
Suffering Savior, in all our thirst, in all our sickness, in all our longing, in all our pain, you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness, and walk with us through all our suffering. Amen.

*(Silence)*

***Song: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”***  *Hymn #338*

Vs. 1 Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
 the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
 a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
 from the burning of the noontide heat and the burdens of the day.

Vs. 2 Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see
 the very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
 And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess:
 the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

Vs. 3 I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place;
 I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
 content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
 my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

**Shadow of Death** *Reading:*[***Luke 23:44-49***](http://bible.oremus.org/?ql=72807131)

44It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, 45while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. 46Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. 47When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.” 48And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. 49But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

**Prayer:**
Dearest Jesus, even in death, you are there. When we mourn, when we are afraid, when we come to our own end, you have been there, too. Come alongside us in the darkness, and carry us through death to life. Amen.

*(Silence)*

***Song: “Were You There”***  Dave & Deb

Vs. 1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Vs. 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Vs. 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Vs. 4 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

Vs. 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
 Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*We leave in silence*

Our congregation has used Taizé, Tenebrae, and narratives of the Passion in past Good Friday services. I grew up in a congregation that often used the 7 last words of Christ as a focal point. I wrote this liturgy to combine some of these elements, but also wanting to add some concrete way for people to respond. I came up with the idea of using stones: stones as worry stones; stones as weights; stones as symbols of altars built where people have an encounter with God; and stones as used in modern Judaism to leave at a grave site as a way to honor the memory of the deceased.

At the beginning of the service, each person will receive a stone and be encouraged to use this stone by holding it in their hand, placing their worries on it, feeling its weight. At the end of the service, as the congregation leaves in silence, there will be a small table draped in black at the back of the sanctuary where people may leave their stones: leaving behind their worries; letting go of the weight; marking an encounter with God; and honoring Jesus in his time spent in the grave until Easter morning.

The liturgy is structured around Jesus’ last words, each reading followed by a short prayer, each prayer followed by silence, each silence ended with a song. Our music for the service uses a combination of classic hymns, spirituals, Taizé, and Iona pieces. We plan to make the musical accompaniment increasingly spare as the service progresses and as lights are extinguished. The length of the silences will also increase through the service.

(Please leave the sanctuary in silence. Following worship, you may place your offering in the offering plates on the table in the narthex.)