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**Friday, April 2, 2021**

**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

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**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

**Service of the Worship of God**

**Friday, April 2, 2021**

**Good Friday**

Rev. Hafidha F. Saadiqah, Pastor \* Mrs. Ronda Stevens, Board Moderator

**A close up of a mans face

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

A LITANY for GOOD FRIDAY

L: Our Savior now enters the valley of the shadow of death where evil waits

in savage glee.

**P: God of Comfort, hold your child in your arms, even as his arms,**

**stretched wide on a cross, embrace us.**

L: Our Guide submits now to the worst that all the hellish powers of earth

can array against him.

**P: God of Healing, hold your child in your arms even as his arms,**

**stretched wide on a cross, embrace us**.

L: Our Co-Sufferer suffers by human wiles twisted in torture, yet intercedes on

behalf of the good of all.

**P: God of Hope, hold your child in your arms even as his arms,**

**stretched wide on a cross, embrace us**.

L: Though we stand at a distance, we pray with our Lord.

**P: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

L: We pray for all in the world who know the trauma of death’s ever-stalking

presence and destruction’s delight in feeding upon our fear.

**P: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

L: We pray for all who scoff at this cross because they have been wounded

by it or because they do not understand.

**P: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy**.

L: We pray for ourselves, who choose to stand at a distance, afraid to enter

into the full mystery of your redemptive power.

**P: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy**.

L: In this trembling hour of terror, O God, grant us faith:

**P: that we may continue to trust in your presence, even when defeat and**

**despair triumph.**

L: In this hour of dread, grant us hope:

**P: that, though Jesus is dead and buried, his spirit of compassion**

**may remain with us.**

L: Through your grace, help us to believe:

**P: that your faithfulness will triumph even when our faith flees and**

**darkness rules the day.**

L: This we ask through Jesus the Christ, your Son, our brother and example -

**All: Amen.**

HYMN *Go to Dark Gethsemane* REDHEAD

1. Go to dark Gethsemane, 2 Calvary’s mournful mountain climb  
   go and feel the tempter's pow'r; see the Savior lifted high;  
   Your Redeemer's conflict see; Mark the miracle of time,  
   Watch the anguish of this hour; God’s own child is martyred now!  
   Do not hide or turn away; “It is finished!”, Jesus cried;  
   learn from Jesus how to pray. learn of Jesus how to die.

SCRIPTURE Luke 22:39-54a Jesus in Prayer

THE NAIL of INJUSTICE

*Response:* Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**.

Lord, have mercy.

SCRIPTURE Luke 22:54b-65 Peter denies knowing Jesus

Jesus is taunted

THE NAIL of BETRAYAL

*Response:* Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**.

Lord, have mercy.

*Silence*

**2**

SCRIPTURE Luke 22:66-23:7 Before Pilate First Time

The NAIL of POLITICAL SUPPRESSION

*Response:* Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**.

Lord, have mercy.

SCRIPTURE Luke 23:8-12 Jesus Before Herod

The NAIL of MOCKERY

*Response:* Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**.

Lord, have mercy.

*Silence*

SCRIPTURE Luke 23:13-25 Jesus and Barabbas

The NAIL of VIOLENCE

*Response:* Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**.

Lord, have mercy.

SCRIPTURE Luke 23:26-31 On His Way to the Cross

THE NAIL of WASTE and MINDLESS CONSUMPTION

*Response:* Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**.

Lord, have mercy.

*Silence*

SCRIPTURE Luke 23:32-43 Jesus on the Cross

The NAIL of RACISM

*Response:* Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**.

Lord, have mercy.

SCRIPTURE Luke 23:44-49 Jesus Dies

**3**

HYMN *Were You There*  Traditional

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?   
   Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
   O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!  
   Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
2. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?   
   Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
   O sometimes it causes me to tremble! tremble! tremble!  
   Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

***Depart in Silence***

**4**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

**I Luke 22:39-54a**

***Jesus in Prayer***

﻿ 39Jesus left and made his way to the Mount of Olives, as was his custom, and the disciples followed him. 40 When he arrived, he said to them, "Pray that you won't give in to temptation." 41 He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed. 42 He said, "Father, if it's your will, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, not my will but your will must be done." 43 Then a heavenly angel appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 He was in anguish and prayed even more earnestly. His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. 45 When he got up from praying, he went to the disciples. He found them asleep, overcome by grief.

**II Luke 22:54b-65**

***﻿Peter denies knowing Jesus***

***Jesus is taunted***

54 After they arrested Jesus, they led him away and brought him to the high priest's house. Peter followed from a distance. 55 When they lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. 56 Then a servant woman saw him sitting in the firelight. She stared at him and said, "This man was with him too." 57 But Peter denied it, saying, "Woman, I don't know him!" ﻿58A little while later, someone else saw him and said, "You are one of them too." But Peter said, "Man, I'm not!" 59An hour or so later, someone else insisted, "This man must have been with him, because he is a Galilean too." 60 Peter responded, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!" At that very moment, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. 61 The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter, and Peter remembered the Lord's words: "Before a rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And Peter went out and cried uncontrollably.

63The men who were holding Jesus in custody taunted him while they beat him. 64 They blindfolded him and asked him repeatedly, "Prophesy! Who hit you?" 65Insulting him, they said many other horrible things against him.

**5**

﻿**III Luke 22:66-23:7**

***Jesus Before Pilate the First Time***

66 As morning came, the elders of the people, both chief priests and legal experts, came together, and Jesus was brought before their council. ﻿67 They said, "If you are the Christ, tell us!" He answered, "If I tell you, you won't believe. 68 And if I ask you a question, you won't answer. 69 But from now on, the Human One will be seated on the right side of the power of God." 70 They all said, "Are you God's Son, then?" He replied, "You say that I am." 71 Then they said, "Why do we need further testimony? We've heard it from his own lips."

﻿ The whole assembly got up and led Jesus to Pilate and 2 began to accuse him. They said, "We have found this man misleading our people, opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar, and claiming that he is the Christ, a king."

3 Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "That's what you say."

﻿ 4 Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no legal basis for action against this man."

5 But they objected strenuously, saying, "He agitates the people with his teaching throughout Judea--starting from Galilee all the way here." 6 Hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. 7 When he learned that Jesus was from Herod's district, Pilate sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

**IV Luke 23:8-12**

***Jesus before Herod***

﻿8 Herod was very glad to see Jesus, for he had heard about Jesus and had wanted to see him for quite some time. He was hoping to see Jesus perform some sign. 9 Herod questioned Jesus at length, but Jesus didn't respond to him. 10 The chief priests and the legal experts were there, fiercely accusing Jesus. 11 Herod and his soldiers treated Jesus with contempt. Herod mocked him by dressing Jesus in elegant clothes and sent him back to Pilate. 12 Pilate and Herod became friends with each other that day. Before this, they had been enemies.

**6**

**V Luke 23:13-25**

**﻿*Jesus and Barabbas***

13Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. 14 He said to them, "You brought this man before me as one who was misleading the people. I have questioned him in your presence and found nothing in this man's conduct that provides a legal basis for the charges you have brought against him. 15 Neither did Herod, because Herod returned him to us. He's done nothing that deserves death. 16 Therefore, I'll have him whipped, then let him go."

18 But with one voice they shouted, "Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us."

(19 Barabbas had been thrown into prison because of a riot that had occurred in the city, and for murder.)

20 Pilate addressed them again because he wanted to release Jesus.

21 They kept shouting out, "Crucify him! Crucify him!"

22 For the third time, Pilate said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done? I've found no legal basis for the death penalty in his case. Therefore, I will have him whipped, then let him go."

23 But they were adamant, shouting their demand that Jesus be crucified. Their voices won out. 24 Pilate issued his decision to grant their request. 25 He released the one they asked for, who had been thrown into prison because of a riot and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

**VI Luke 23:26-31**

***On the way to the cross***

﻿ 26 As they led Jesus away, they grabbed Simon, a man from Cyrene, who was coming in from the countryside. They put the cross on his back and made him carry it behind Jesus. 27 A huge crowd of people followed Jesus, including women, who were mourning and wailing for him. 28 Jesus turned to the women and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Rather, cry for yourselves and your children. 29 The time will come when they will say, 'Happy are those who are unable to become pregnant, the wombs that never gave birth, and the breasts that never nursed a child.' 30 Then they will say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.’ 31 If they do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

**7**

**VII Luke 23:32-43**

***Jesus on the cross***

32 They also led two other criminals to be executed with Jesus. 33When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they're doing." They drew lots as a way of dividing up his clothing.

35 The people were standing around watching, but the leaders sneered at him, saying, "He saved others. Let him save himself if he really is the Christ sent from God, the chosen one."

36 The soldiers also mocked him. They came up to him, offering him sour wine

37 and saying, "If you really are the king of the Jews, save yourself."  38 Above his head was a notice of the formal charge against him. It read "This is the king of the Jews." 39 One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus insulted him: "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

40 Responding, the other criminal spoke harshly to him, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you've also been sentenced to die?

41 We are rightly condemned, for we are receiving the appropriate sentence for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong."

42 Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 Jesus replied, "I assure you that today you will be with me in paradise."

**Luke 23:44-49**

***Jesus Dies***

﻿ 44 It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole earth until about three o'clock, 45 while the sun stopped shining. Then the curtain in the sanctuary tore down the middle.

46 Crying out in a loud voice, Jesus said, "Father, into your hands I entrust my life." After he said this, he breathed for the last time. ﻿47 When the centurion saw what happened, he praised God, saying, "It's really true: this man was righteous." 48 All the crowds who had come together to see this event returned to their homes beating their chests after seeing what had happened. 49 And everyone who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance observing these things.

**8**