

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE HEART

*On this day, our Lord remained withdrawn in silence in Bethany
preparing Himself for the agony that awaited Him,
whilst Judas was bargaining with the chief priests to betray Him.*

(Please use the prelude to prepare your heart for worship.)

The Prelude What Wondrous Love Is This arr. by Albert Zabel

The Chiming of the Hour

The Opening Sentences and Invocation The Reverend Claude E. McRoberts III
Senior Minister, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Montgomery

Minister: Christ is despised and rejected of men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

All: And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;

Minister: He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

All: Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Minister: But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities.

All: The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

Minister: Almighty God, Whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first He suffered pain, and entered not into glory before He was crucified; mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same, Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine;
now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,
O let me from this day be wholly Thine.

May Thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire;
as Thou hast died for me, O may my love to Thee
pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread, be Thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day, wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

The Scripture Lesson

35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed. [Mark 1:35]

23 And after He had dismissed the crowds, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone. [Matthew 14:23]

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to His disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." [Matthew 26:36]

12 In these days He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. [Luke 6:12]

7 In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to Him Who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. [Hebrews 5:7]

The Homily

THE LONELINESS OF JESUS
Solitude on Silent Wednesday

The Solo

Jesus, Lover of My Soul
Michael Wutzke, *baritone*

arr. Edwin T. Childs

The Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, You stretched out Your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of Your saving embrace: so clothe us in Your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know You to the knowledge and love of You; for the honor of Your Name. Amen.

The Benediction

Minister: Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times in every way. And may that peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; the blessing of God Almighty: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost and His very presence be with you, and remain with you until the day breaks and all these shadows flee away.

People: Amen!

The Postlude

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

William H. Doane



Please join us tomorrow and Friday at 7:00 p.m. (prelude at 6:55) for our

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

with Homily by The Reverend Michael Howell

and

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE

with Homily by The Reverend Patrick Curles