

Final Reading (ix): The Rev. Roger Daly

So we come in our helpless candor this day...
remembering, giving thanks, celebrating...
but not for one instant unmindful of dangers too ominous
and powers too sturdy and threats well beyond us.

We turn eventually from our hurt for children lost.
We turn finally from all our unresolved losses
to the cosmic grief as the loss of Jesus.
We recall and relive that wrenching Friday
when the hurt cut to you heart.
We see in that terrible hurt, our losses
and your full embrace of loss and defeat.

We dare pray while the darkness descends
and the earthquake trembles,
we dare pray for eyes to see fully
and mouths to speak fully the power of death all around,
we dare pray for a capacity to notice unflinching
that in our happy playgrounds other children die,
and grow silent,
we pray more for your notice and your promise
and your healing.

Our only urging on Friday is that you live this as we must
impacted but not destroyed,
dimmed but not quenched.
For your great staying power
and your promise of newness we praise you.
It is in your power
and your promise that we take our stand this day.
We dare trust that Friday is never the last day,
so we watch for the new day of life.
Hear our prayer and be your full self toward us. Amen.

⌘ ALL LEAVE IN SILENCE ⌘
Thank you for participation today



**The 2019 Community Ecumenical Service
for Good Friday**

based on the Seven Last Words of Christ

Friday, April 19, 2019-----12 noon to 3pm

Come as you are able...
leave when you must...
or stay throughout.

If possible please leave during a hymn.
Thank you for your consideration.

⌘

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude: Patty Meyer

☩ Noon ~ Tolling of a Bell 12 Times ☩

Introit: “All in the Morning” traditional
arr. Peter Amidon; Tony Barrand, solo

Welcome: The Rev. Dr. Lise Sparrow,
Guilford Community Church, U.C.C.
☩☩

Call to Worship (i) : Darah Kehnemuyi, Putney Friends Meeting

“As many years as I have been listening to Easter sermons...Resurrection is always announced with Easter lilies, the sound of trumpets, bright streaming light. But it did not happen that way. If it happened in a cave, it happened in complete silence, in absolute darkness, with the smell of damp stone and dug earth in the air. Sitting deep in the heart of Organ Cave, I let this sink in: new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark.”

☩ I ☩

“Father, Forgive Them; For They Know Not What They Do.”

Hymn 193 : “Go to Dark Gethsemane”

Unison Confession (ii) : The Rev. Mary Lindquist,
St. Michael’s Episcopal Church

L: O Lord, what shall we do?

C: **When hearts are heavy, days are dreary, eyes brimful
of tears ... when backs and wills are bent and bowed**

Let evil impulses stop, let controversy cease,
And may Christ our God be in our midst.
Where charity and love are, God is there.

And may we with the saints also,
See Thy face in glory, O Christ our God:
The joy that is immense and good,
Unto the ages through infinite ages. Amen.

Silent Prayer

Response:

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
Holy and Immortal one, Have mercy upon us.
Amen.**

☩ Conclusion ☩

Scripture: The Rev. Shawn Bracebridge

John 19:31-42

Choral Anthem: “Morning”, traditional, Shape Note

Silent Prayer

Response:

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
Holy and Immortal one, Have mercy upon us.
Amen**

holy the shadows
and gathering night
Holy the darkness,
holy the hours,
holy the hope
turning toward light.

Unison Prayer:

Holy God, increase our faith, renew our courage, and by your Holy Spirit grant that we may be faithful, even unto death. Grant us grace to watch and pray, that we may not enter into temptation, but follow faithfully in the way of Christ our Lord, who loved us to the last. Amen.

Scripture: The Rev. Shawn Bracebridge

Luke 23:44-46

Meditation: The Rev. Shayna Appel
All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Choral Anthem: "Ubi Caritas" by Maurice Duruflé

Translation from the Latin:

Where charity and love are, God is there.
Christ's love has gathered us into one.
Let us rejoice and be pleased in Him.
Let us fear, and let us love the living God.

And may we love each other with a sincere heart.
Where charity and love are, God is there.
As we are gathered into one body,
Beware, lest we be divided in mind.

beneath a load of care and grief that seems, almost, too great for words, too heavy to be borne--

L: O Lord, what shall we do?

C: **We turn to you!**

L: For in his life and death for us, your Son, the Christ, has borne our burdens, sins, and cares.

C: **And in the living strength of his forgiving, power-giving love we are refreshed, renewed, restored, and set again upon the daily tasks of life.**

L: And when we see the grief and care of others there:

C: **When hearts are heavy, days are dreary, eyes brimful of tears ... when backs and wills are bent and bowed beneath a load of care and grief that seems, almost, too great for words, too heavy to be borne,**

L: and in their darkness they cry out, "O Lord, what shall we do?"

C: **send us, O Lord, to turn their hearts to you!**

L: Send us in the name of the One by whom your children always pray:

All:

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

Choral Anthem: "The Lord's Prayer"
composed by Peter Amidon

Scripture: The Rev. Shawn Bracebridge,
Dummerston Congregational Church, U.C.C.

Luke 23:13-34

Meditation: The Rev. Suzanne Andrews, First Baptist Church

Silent Prayer

All Respond:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy and Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us, Amen**

œ II (12:25) œ

“Today You Will Be with Me in Paradise”

Responsive Reading (iii) : Joan Pouliot, Trinity Lutheran Church

L: Blessed are the agnostics.

P: Blessed are they who doubt.

L: Those who aren't sure, who can still be surprised.

**P: Blessed are they who are spiritually impoverished
and therefor not so certain about everything
that they no longer take in new information.**

L: Blessed are those who have nothing to offer.

P: Blessed are they for whom nothing seems to be working.

L: Blessed are the preschoolers who cut in line at communion.

**P: Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus
blesses you.**

L: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

P: Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.

L: Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones,

P: for whom tears are as real as an ocean.

œ VII (2:35) œ

“Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!”

Hymn 188 : “Before the Cross of Jesus”

Reading (viii) : The Rev. Sandy Daly
Hallelujah Farm and Retreat Center

We never
would have wished it
to come to this,
yet we call
these moments holy
as we hold you.
Holy the tending,
holy the winding,
holy the leaving,
as in the living.
Holy the silence,
holy the stillness,
holy the turning
and returning to earth.

Blessed is the One
who came
in the name,
blessed is the One
who laid
himself down,
blessed is the One
emptied for us,
blessed is the One
wearing the shroud.
Holy the waiting,
holy the grieving,

P In honor of exiles
C In honor of the silenced,
P The darkness, the word.

C May it come to be
P In our lifetimes,
C rise from our bodies,
P rain on our dryness,
C sprout from our dust.

C May blessing sound from the cities,
P May our bullets be silenced,
C Sharpened stones returned to earth.
P May abundant peace
C Rise from our nightmares
P Bloom in our deserts
C Sing from our houses
P Walk with our bones.

Scripture: The Rev. Shawn Bracebridge

John 19:30

Meditation: Rev. Susie Webster-Toleno
Westminster West Congregational Church, U.C.C.

Choral Anthem: "I Will Arise", traditional, African American

Silent Prayer

Response:

**Holy God, holy and mighty,
Holy and Immortal one, Have mercy upon us. Amen**

L: Blessed are they who have loved enough to know
what loss feels like.

P: Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried.

L: Blessed are they who don't have the luxury of taking
things for granted any more.

**P: Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they
have to keep it together for everyone else.**

L: Blessed are the motherless, the alone, the ones from
whom so much has been taken.

P: Blessed are those who "still aren't over it yet."

L: Blessed are they who laughed again when for so
long they thought they never would.

P: Blessed are those who mourn.

All: You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Hymn 183 : "What Wondrous Love Is This"

Scripture: The Rev. Shawn Bracebridge

Matthew 27:38-44, Luke 23:39-43

Meditation: Rev. Dr. Scott Couper,
Centre Congregational Church, U.C.C.

Choral Anthem: "Ukuthula", South African

Silent Prayer

Response:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy and Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us, Amen**

✠ III (12:50) ✠

“Woman, behold your son...son, behold your mother!”

Reading (iv) : The Rev. Sandy Daly
Hallelujah Farm and Retreat Center

*"So the people took their dough before it was leavened, their kneading
bowls wrapped in their cloaks upon their shoulders." —*
Exodus 12:34

You'll need to travel light.
Take what you can carry: a book, a poem,
a battered tin cup, your child strapped
to your chest, clutching your necklace
in one hot possessive fist.
So the dough isn't ready. So your heart
isn't ready. You haven't said goodbye
to the places where you hid as a child,
to the friends who aren't interested in the journey,
to the graves you've tended.
But if you wait until you feel fully ready
you may never take the leap at all
and Infinity is calling you forth
out of this birth canal
and into the future's wide expanse.
Learn to improvise flat cakes without yeast.
Learn to read new alphabets.

Scripture: The Rev. Shawn Bracebridge,

John 19:28-29

Meditation: The Rev. Dr. Larrimore Crockett

Anthem: “There Is a Balm in Gilead”, traditional, African American

Silent Prayer

Response:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy and Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us, Amen**

✠ VI (2:10) ✠

“It is finished”

Hymn 186 : “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended”

Responsive Prayer (vii) : Joan Pouliot, Trinity Lutheran Church

L For the mourners
C For the sake of the forgotten
L For the sake of the slaughter
C For the sake of the wounding
L the broken, the grief

C in the name of the blessed
P in the name of the lost
C in the name of the armed
P the fallen, the thief.
C In honor of the stunned,

Scripture: The Rev. Shawn Bracebridge

Matthew 27:45-49

Meditation: The Rev. Audrey Walker
First Congregational Church, West Brattleboro

Choral Anthem: “Kedron”, traditional, Shape Note

Silent Prayer

Response:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy and Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us, Amen**

✠ V (1:45) ✠

“I thirst”

Hymn 200 : “Were You There?”

Reading (vi) : Darah Kehnemuyi, Putney Quaker Meeting

“Unfortunately, during the course of 2,000 years of Christian history, this symbol of salvation has been detached from any reference to the ongoing suffering and oppression of human beings—those whom Ignacio Ellacuría, the Salvadoran martyr, called “the crucified peoples of history.”

The cross has been transformed into a harmless, non-offensive ornament that Christians wear around their necks. Rather than reminding us of the “cost of discipleship,” it has become a form of “cheap grace,”[3] an easy way to salvation that doesn’t force us to confront the power of Christ’s message and mission.

Until we can see the cross and the lynching tree together, until we can identify Christ with a “re-crucified” black body hanging from a lynching tree, there can be no genuine understanding of Christian identity in America, and no deliverance from the brutal legacy of slavery and white supremacy.”

Wear God like a cloak

and stride forth with confidence.

You won’t know where you’re going
but you have the words of our sages,
the songs of our mothers, the inspiration
wrapped in your kneading bowl. Trust
that what you carry will sustain you
and take the first step out the door.

Hymn 198 : “Jesus Remember Me “ (repeat 5 times)

AUDIO: “Land That I Love”, Scott Ainslie

Scripture: The Rev. Shawn Bracebridge,

John 19:19-27

Meditation: Rev. Dr. Lise Sparrow, Guilford Community Church

Special Music: “Camina, Pueblo de Dios” by Cesáreo Gabaráin

Translation from Spanish:

*Walk, people of God,
walk, people of God,
new law, new alliance
in the new creation.
Walk the people of God.
Walk the people of God.*

Look over there on Calvary,
in the rock there is a cross,
death that engenders life,
new (people), new light.
Christ has saved us
with his death and resurrection.

All things are reborn
in the New Creation

Christ takes on his body,
sin, slavery;
by destroying them it brings us
a new fullness.

It puts (people) in peace,
to things and the Creator.
Everything is reborn to life
in the New Creation.

Heaven and earth embrace,
our soul finds forgiveness.
The heavens are opening again
for the sinful man.

Pilgrim Israel,
live and sing your redemption.
There are new open worlds
In the new creation.

Silent Prayer

Response:

**Holy God, Holy and mighty
Holy and Immortal One, Have Mercy upon us, Amen**

⌘ IV (1:20) ⌘

“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

Hymn 187 : “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

Prayer of Confession (v) : The Rev. Roger Daly
Hallelujah Farm and Retreat Center

L: O Holy One,
be with us in this dark hour
as we face our collective shadow.

C: **We do not do the things that make for peace
but rather do the very things that lead to
violence. We are slow to shed our ignorance
and quick to justify our foolishness.**

L: Our planet joins our lament.
The lost souls of the extinct animals,
and those soon to be gone forever,
cry out this day with the Christ:
“Why have you forsaken me?”

C: **The poor, the left-behinds, the humble ones
living in ghettos from Rio de Janeiro to Calcutta
to Port-au-Prince, to the forgotten reservations of
our own nation, cry out this day, along with the
Christ: “Why have you forsaken me?”**

L: May this story break our hearts,
our minds, and our spirits wide open,
that we might hear Spirit’s cry:
“Why have you forsaken me?”

C: **Help us to die with the Christ
that we might also be raised with Him,
and with all creation,
and discover our true nature,
one with your breaking heart. Amen.**