

Good Friday at Home

Timing:

- You can do this on your own or with others whenever you want anytime from Thursday to Saturday. However, as a community, we are planning to start at 7:30 PM on Friday, and finish at sunset around 8:00pm. If you would like to go through this with others online at that time, email tim.k@hcbellingham.com who is setting up a Zoom group for those interested. Whether on your own or with others online imagine most of Hillcrest Church gathered in our homes reckoning this time together.
- At 7:30 - begin with a simple prayer asking the Holy Spirit to participate in this reflection on messiah Jesus.

Setup:

- Take some time to set a thoughtful common space in your home. We recommend you set it with 7 candles if you have them. If you don't have 7, that's fine, grab as many as you have and you can use those. (For example, if you have 3 candles, leave them lit for the first 4 readings and begin putting them out after that.) Gather as close as is safe for your group. Assign readers or take these on your own.
- Turn off all distractions and lights. Light your candles.
- There are 3 songs during this reflection. If you would like to sing them, the lyrics are provided. You could also find the songs online (links are provided below) and listen to them at the appropriate places.

Tenebrae:

- The service of *Tenebrae*, meaning "darkness" or "shadows," has been practiced by the church since medieval times. During this reading of the story of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion candles are extinguished to darken the room. We join Christians of many generations throughout the world in using the liturgy of Tenebrae.

Instructions for Reflection:

- The following guided reflection is simply a way to walk with Jesus through his betrayal, arrest, trial, crucifixion, and burial. In this strange time in our history, it is good for our hearts to remember the reality of the Son of God entering into human suffering, and taking the sin, pain, and death of the world into himself to bring life. Jesus meets us in our anxiety, fears, sins, and even death. We believe in the power of God speaking through Scripture. We pray he encounters you this night.

Grace and peace,

Christian and Tim

Begin with a simple prayer inviting God's presence.

*Sing or Listen to [How Deep the Father's Love For Us](#) by Stuart Townsend

1. Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested - John 18:1 - 14

- The first candle is extinguished in silence.

2. Jesus is Tried and Peter Denies Him - John 18:15 - 27

- The second candle is extinguished in silence.

3. Jesus Appears before Pontius Pilate - John 18:28 - 40

- The third candle is extinguished in silence.

*Sing or Listen to [Were You There When They Crucified My Lord](#) - Verses 1 + 2

4. Jesus is Sentenced to Death - John 19:1 - 16

- The fourth candle is extinguished in silence.

5. Jesus is Crucified - John 19:17 - 24

- The fifth candle is extinguished in silence.

6. Jesus Dies - John 19:25 - 37

- The sixth candle is extinguished in silence.

*Sing or Listen to [When I Survey the Wondrous Cross](#) by Isaac Watts

7. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb - John 19:38 - 42

- Leave the final candle burning. Place it behind an object, to represent the single flickering light of Christ, hidden in the ground in his burial.

Pray to end.

[How Deep The Father's Love For Us](#) | Stuart Townsend

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

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?

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?

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | Issac Watts

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.