

Community-Developed

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Scattered & Gathered (Online) During a Pandemic **A Good Friday Reflection & Communion Service**

Reflection (to be done individually)

Preparation

This time of reflection & worship was designed especially for a time of physical distancing. You may follow it in your home, in your backyard, or walking in another safe outdoor space where you (and your household) can be physically distanced from others. It can be used alone or in a family unit of varying ages and may be adapted for your circumstances. If you are alone, you may write your reflections in a journal. If you are with others, talk together. Bring these pages with you wherever you are. You can read as you walk or stop along the way. You will be asked to look around you for items that represent 5 themes. Gather them together if you are at home or carry them home if possible (if small like a stone, a twig). Take a picture if it's something you must leave behind. Bring them to our evening online conversation.

Opening

Right now, we are being asked to stay home a lot. It feels strange not to be together as a church on Good Friday, but as we stay near home, with many other events cancelled, we have the chance to stay close to Jesus and to spend time remembering the story of his life and death and what they show us about his love for us and our love for Jesus.

Sing (or read)

HWB 242 *Stay with Me*

Pray

Jesus,
we want to stay with you today and every day.
Help us to stay with you even in the hardest parts of your story.
Thank you for staying with us in the hardest parts of our lives.
Teach us about your love for us.
We are watching and praying.

Amen.

Read

Matthew 26:30-36

Look

What do you see around you that makes you think about being “alone”? Take your time. If it’s something you can touch or hold, do that.

Wonder

Before Jesus was arrested in the garden, he prayed alone. His closest friends fell asleep even though he kept asking them to stay awake with him. After Jesus was arrested, those close friends were afraid, and they all ran away.

- What do you think it felt like to be Jesus, praying alone in that garden that night?
- When have you felt alone?
- What does it feel like to pray this prayer with Jesus? “Abba God, if it is possible, don’t make me suffer by having me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want.”

Sing

HWB 242 *Stay with Me*

Read

Matthew 26:57-60a

Look

What do you see around you that makes you think about being “broken”? Take your time. If it’s something you can touch or hold, do that.

Wonder

A justice system is supposed to be fair and honest, but the court that sentenced Jesus to death was not those things. It was broken. Even Jesus’ good friend Peter broke his promise to Jesus when he denied three times that he knew Jesus.

- What do you see in our world that is broken and needs mending?
- What are the things that we might help mend?
- What are the things that we might need to trust God to mend?

Sing

HWB 242 *Stay with Me*

Read

Matthew 27:27-31

Look

What do you see around you that makes you think about being “hurt”? Take your time. If it’s something you can touch or hold, do that.

Wonder

People hurt Jesus’ body and they also said and did cruel things to make fun of him. When we hear cruel things, it can hurt our feelings, or make our hearts hurt.

- When have you been hurt?
- When have you hurt someone else?
- What do you feel when Jesus prays this prayer? “Abba, forgive these people! They don’t know what they’re doing” (Luke 23:34).

Sing

HWB 242 *Stay with Me*

Read

Matthew 27:45-51, 54

Look

What do you see around you that makes you think about being “afraid”? Take your time. If it’s something you can touch or hold, do that.

Wonder

In the story of Good Friday, we see that Jesus felt afraid, his friends felt afraid, and even the people who were guarding Jesus felt afraid about what they had done when they understood that Jesus was God’s son.

- When have you felt afraid?
- Who else do you know that might feel afraid right now?
- Imagine telling Jesus your fears. What does that feel like?

Sing

HWB *Stay with Me*

Read

Matthew 27:55-61

Look

What do you see around you that makes you think about being “cared for”? Take your time. If it’s something you can touch or hold, do that.

Wonder

Even though Jesus' friends were very sad, and probably still afraid, some of them stayed close to him and cared for him after he had died. The women who were Jesus' friends were coming to the tomb to care for his body when they discovered that he was alive (but that is Easter's story!)

- Who is caring for you right now?
- How are you caring for others?
- How does God care for you?

Sing

HWB 242 *Stay with Me*

Pray

Jesus, we have stayed with you through your story, and you have stayed with us.
You always stay with us.

Thank you for caring for us when we are afraid, hurt, broken, or alone.
Show us how to care for others when they are afraid, hurt, broken, or alone,
even when we have to be far apart from each other.
Thank you for your love. Help us share your love.

Amen.

Closing

Gather the items you have collected for the 5 themes (if possible). Before our meeting time today, use them to set your table in preparation for our sharing (online) of the Lord's supper. Set your table with:

- Bread or crackers for everyone in your household to eat (whatever you have on hand)
- A glass of water for everyone
- 5 unlit Candles (if you have them) and matches or a lighter
- Items you picked up on your walk or around your house during your earlier reflections
- The order of worship below

Go in peace.

If you wish today, read the whole passion story: Matthew 26:30-27:66 (or any of the other gospels)

Gathered (Online) Communion Service

Gathering and Welcome

When you enter the Zoom call, you will be on mute. You can look for the icon of the microphone with a red line through it to test turning your volume on and off, but otherwise please remain muted as we gather. If you are comfortable welcoming us into your home in this way, please turn on your camera (icon beside the microphone) so we can see you. Look for the chat button. You can type messages to everyone.

Prayer

Song (one household)

HWB 242 *Stay with Me*

Candle lighting (5 speakers)

If you have set your table with 5 candles, I invite you to prepare to light them one by one, as we are led. If you do not have candles, you can simply watch and pray.

Leader 1: Together we light a candle for Jesus, for when he was alone.
(Candle is lit)
We shine a light for all who feel alone today.

Leader 2: Together we light a candle for Jesus, for when systems and promises were broken.
(Candle is lit)
We shine a light for all that is broken today.

Leader 3: Together we light a candle for Jesus, for when he was hurt.
(Candle is lit)
We shine a light for all who are being hurt today.

Leader 4: Together we light a candle for Jesus, for when he was afraid.
(Candle is lit)
We shine a light for all who feel afraid today.

Leader 5: Together we light a candle for Jesus, and for those cared for him.
(Candle is lit)
We shine a light for all who are caring for others today.

Leader 1: As the dark of night nears to cover and watch over us,
We shine these lights so that none may be forgotten.

Sharing our experiences in small groups (Breakout groups of 4-5 people)

Share something that you saw or thought about today as you followed Jesus' journey to the cross. What did you see or hear in the story of Jesus, or in your surroundings?

Optional – invite a few reflections for whole group?

The Lord's Supper

(Liturgy taken from this AMBS webinar – www.commonword.ca/go/1990)

Explain that when more than one of us talks at the same time, it will sound a little strange, but that's okay. It is good to be together in whatever ways we can.

Invitation (Adapted from *Words for Worship 2*, #120)

Prayer of Preparation and Confession

(Adapted from the Mennonite Minister's Manual by Michelle Curtis)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Passing the Peace

(Wave, peace sign, hand on heart, etc.)

Prayer

Holy God,
You formed the earth from chaos;
You molded us in your image.
With mercy higher than the mountains and grace deeper than the sea
you called and led your people.
When we chose to flee from you,
you came to us through Jesus,
and adopted us as your own.
With bread and wine, Jesus sealed your covenant with us.
Gathered at his table, we remember his life, lived and offered up for others.
In dying, he set us free from death.
In rising, he opened the way to eternal life.
Come now, Holy Spirit, upon us and this meal
that we might feed on Christ
and share his bounty with the world.

We ask this through our Savior,
who taught us to pray, saying:

Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
Forever and ever.

Amen.

Words of Institution

*We will eat the bread and drink the cup together, so please wait for that moment.
When I hold the elements up to my screen, I invite you to hold your hands up for a moment, as if to receive it.*

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it [break bread] and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (*Leader offers bread to the camera*)

Song

STJ 86 – *Taste and See* refrain

Eat, beloved, eat the Lord's bread

At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus loved his neighbours by turning water into wine. Today we have water in our cups, and we remember the transformation that Jesus can bring into every situation. Near the end of his life, after breaking the bread, in the same way, Jesus took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me." (*Leader offers cup to the camera*)

Song

STJ 86 – *Taste and See* refrain

Drink, beloved, drink the Lord's cup

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
Thank you for this familiar ritual.
We ask that it might strengthen us for all that is unfamiliar.
Like the women who waited in uncertainty until that Easter dawn,
not knowing that that would be the moment when everything would change,
wait with us now, and bring your resurrection power
when we least expect it and most need it.
May this bread and this cup nourish us,
reminding us who you are
and who we are in you.

Amen.

Blessing & Leave-taking

We have met from east and west and north and south to share this meal.
May God's Spirit lead you into a holy time of waiting for Easter dawn to break.

(Extinguish candles)
Go in peace.