

Holy Friday
A Service of Remembrance

Evangelical United Church of Christ
Sts. Clare and Francis, Ecumenical Catholic Communion
March 25, 2005

7:00 pm

Welcome and Introduction

***Hymn 544**

“If I Have Been the Source of Pain, O God”

Camacua

Table Fellowship

Invitation

Table Prayer

***Procession to the Table**

*The Congregation is invited to come forward by the center aisle...
partaking of the bread and cup,
and placing an offering in the plates beside the table.*

***Communion Hymn 515**

“O God, My God”

O God My God

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*People's response in bold*)

Let us pray for the breaking in of God's kingdom in our world today.

Lord God, because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things, we hold to his word and share his plea:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where nations budget for war while Christ says, "Put [away] your sword":

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where countries waste food and covet fashion while Christ says, "I was hungry . . . I was thirsty . . .":

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where powerful governments claim their policies are heaven blessed
while Scripture states that God helps the powerless:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where Christians seek the kingdom in the shape of their own church
as if Christ came to build and not to break barriers:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where our prayers falter, our faith weakens, our light grows dim:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where Jesus Christ calls us:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Lord God, you have declared that your kingdom is among us.

Open our ears to hear it, our hands to serve it, our hearts to hold it.

This we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Anthem

“Verleih' uns Frieden”

Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Da nobis pacem

(Grant unto us thy peace, O Lord)

The Chancel Choir and Instrumental Ensemble

ON THE FIRST DAY...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew:

²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, ‘Truly I tell you, one

of you will betray me.’²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, ‘Surely not I, Lord?’²³ He answered, ‘The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me.’²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.’²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, ‘Surely not I, Rabbi?’ He replied, ‘You have said so.’

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body.’²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you;’²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.’

The People Respond:

Songs and Prayers from Taize, Jacques Berthier, 1991.

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.

(repeat)

ON THE SECOND DAY...

A Reading from our Tradition:

Didache, 1st Century CE

There are two ways, one of life and one of death, but a great difference between the two ways. The way of life, then, is this: First, you shall love God who made you; second, love your neighbor as yourself, and do not do to another what you would not want done to you. And of these sayings the teaching is this: Bless those who curse you, and pray for your enemies, and fast for those who persecute you. For what reward is there for loving those who love you? Do not the Gentiles do the same? But love those who hate you, and you shall not have an enemy. Abstain from fleshly and worldly lusts. If someone strikes your right cheek, turn to him the other also, and you shall be perfect. If someone impresses you for one mile, go with him two. If someone takes your cloak, give him also your coat. If someone takes from you what is yours, ask it not back, for indeed you are not able. Give to every one who asks you, and ask it not back...

The People Respond:

Come All You People, John Bell,
Wild Goose Worship Group, 1994

Cantor begins:

*God from God, God from God,
Light from light, light from light.*

ON THE THIRD DAY...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew:

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.’³⁷ He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated.³⁸ Then he said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me.’³⁹ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.’⁴⁰ Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, ‘So, could you not stay awake with me one hour?’⁴¹ Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’⁴² Again he went away for the second time and prayed, ‘My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.’⁴³ Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.⁴⁴ So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.’⁴⁶ Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.’

The People Respond:

Songs and Prayers from Taize, Jacques Berthier, 1991

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.

(repeat)

ON THE FOURTH DAY...

A Reading from our Past:

"Between the World and Me", Richard Wright © 1935

The People Respond:

Come All You People, John Bell,

Cantor begins:

*God from God, **God from God,**
Light from light, **light from light.***

ON THE FIFTH DAY...

A Reading from our Present:

Associated Press, Chapel Hill NC

Thomas Stockwell, 21, was beaten early on the morning of Feb. 25 [in the year of our Lord two thousand and five] at the intersection of two downtown streets as he spoke on a cell phone to a friend. He suffered cuts on his face, a boot mark on his forehead, a broken nose and an assortment of swollen body parts.

"It just opens your eyes up a little more to the anger and hatred and hostility people feel, lurking beneath the surface," he told The Herald-Sun of Durham in a recent interview. "If it can happen here, it can happen anywhere."

He said the group of men called him a homosexual epithet several times, chased him and beat him. Stockwell was walking toward friend Rachael King and talking to her on a cell phone. They were a block or two away from each other when he was attacked. Suddenly, she heard snippets of strained conversation. Stockwell made a comment about "those guys," and then she heard shouts. Then, nothing. "I heard him yelling, and then I heard the phone drop and hit the ground," King said.

"Like two minutes later, this random girl picked up the phone and said 'are you his friend? You'd better get over here. He's at the corner of Franklin and Columbia.'"

When she got there moments later, Stockwell was crouched on the pavement, dazed, his face a swath of bright crimson. "He was covered, covered, covered in blood," recalled King. "It was all over his face, all over his jeans, all over the ground."

Covered, covered, covered in blood.

The People Respond:

Songs and Prayers from Taize, Jacques Berthier, 1991

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.

(repeat)

ON THE SIXTH DAY...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke:

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' ⁴⁷When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' ⁴⁸At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' ⁵⁰Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. ⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!'

The People Respond:

*Come All You People, John Bell,
Wild Goose Worship Group, 1994*

Cantor begins:

*God from God, **God from God,**
Light from light, **light from light.***

ON THE SEVENTH DAY...

A Reading for the future:

"Still I Rise", Maya Angelou

The People Respond:

Songs and Prayers from Taize, Jacques Berthier, 1991

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.

Within our darkest night, you kindle the fire that never dies away, never dies away.

(repeat)

Going forth in silence....