

**Holy Friday
A Service of Remembrance**

**Evangelical United Church of Christ
Sts. Clare and Francis, Ecumenical Catholic Communion
April 14, 2006 7:00 pm**

Welcome and Introduction

***Hymn 544**

"If I have been the Source of Pain, Oh 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,
placing an offering in the plates beside the table,
and lighting a prayer candle on the altar.*

***Communion Hymn 515**

"O God, My God"

O God My God

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)**

**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.**

*—A Wee Worship Book, pp. 16-17
©1999, by WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland).*

Anthem

"Cross Cry"
The Chancel Choir

Gilbert Martin

ON THE FIRST DAY...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Mark:

17 When it was evening, he came with the twelve. 18 And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." 19 They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" 20 He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. 21 For 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."

The People Respond:

Prayer by Desmond Tutu, Music by John Bell

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Compassion is ours, compassion is ours through him who loved us.**

ON THE SECOND DAY...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Mark:

26 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written,
'I will strike the shepherd,
and the sheep will be scattered.'

28 But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." 29 Peter said to him, "Even though all become deserters, I will not." 30 Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this day, this very night, before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." 31 But he said vehemently, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And all of them said the same.

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)**

ON THE THIRD DAY...

A Reading from our Past:

From *"Night"* by Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel

One day when we came back from work, we saw three gallows rearing up in the assembly place, three black crows. Roll call, SS all round us, machine guns trained: the traditional ceremony. Three victims in chains-and one of them, the little servant, the sad-eyed angel. The SS seemed more preoccupied, more disturbed than usual. To hang a young boy in front of thousands of spectators was no light matter. The head of the camp read the verdict. All eyes were on the child. He was lividly pale, almost calm, biting his lips. The gallows threw its shadow over him. This time the Lagerkapo refused to act as executioner. Three SS replaced him. The three victims mounted together into their chairs. The three necks were placed at the same moment within the nooses. "Long live liberty!" cried the two adults. But the child was silent.

"Where is God - Where is He?" someone behind me asked. At a sign from the head of the camp, the three chairs tipped over. Total silence throughout the camp. On the horizon, the sun was setting. "Cover your heads!" yelled the head of the camp. His was raucous. We were weeping. "Cover your heads!" Then the march past began. The two adults were no longer alive. Their tongues hung swollen, blue-tinged. But the third rope was still moving; being so light, the child was still alive. . . For more than half an hour he stayed there, struggling between life and death, dying in slow agony under our eyes. And we had to look him full in the face. He was still alive when I passed in front of him. His tongue was still red, his eyes were not yet glazed. Behind me, I heard the same man asking: "Where is God now?" And I heard a voice within me answer him: "Where is He? Here He is - He is hanging here on this gallows . . ." That night the soup tasted of corpses.

The People Respond:

Prayer by Desmond Tutu, Music by John Bell

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Compassion is ours, compassion is ours through him who loved us.**

ON THE FOURTH DAY...

A Reading from our Present:

A group of Marines headed toward the (Walheed's) house in Haditha, Iraq. Eman says she "heard a lot of shooting, so none of us went outside. Besides, it was very early, and we were all wearing our nightclothes." When the Marines entered the house, they were shouting in English. "First, they went into my father's room, where he was reading the Koran," she claims, "and we heard shots." According to Eman, the Marines then entered the living room. "I couldn't see their faces very well—only their guns sticking into the doorway. I watched them shoot my grandfather, first in the chest and then in the head. Then they killed my granny." She claims the troops started firing toward the corner of the room where she and her younger brother Abdul Rahman, 8, were hiding; the other adults shielded the children from the bullets but died in the process. Eman says her leg was hit by a piece of metal and Abdul Rahman was shot near his shoulder. "We were lying there, bleeding, and it hurt so much. Afterward, some Iraqi soldiers came. They carried us in their arms. I was crying, shouting 'Why did you do this to our family?'"

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)**

ON THE FIFTH DAY...

A Reading from our Present:

Excerpt from "The Birth of Evil—A Defamiliarization" by Dennis H. Schellenberg M.S.W.
Printed in the Journal of Pastoral Care

In Sunday school she had read this story along with all the rest of the Christians and had been taught it had but one meaning for the thoughtful Christian. It meant only that the woman sinned against God and had dragged the man into sin with her. It painted the woman as the hopeless casualty of her own weakness. And because of her fall from grace, all the people forever were doomed to the torment of a broken relationship with God. That last part had never made much sense to her even in her moments of extreme despair. This time all that Sunday school religion was taking on a new structure. Sure the woman, the man, and the snake were still in the story. The difference this time was that it appeared that the woman was the believer... Her love of the garden and the serpent was betrayed.... She had been betrayed by her faithfulness. Surely only good can exist in the garden. The Creator had warned them about the tree but that was the only warning. There was no warning about the treachery of the serpent or about how evil could pose as good. This wasn't fair! The goodness of the garden was transformed into a place where evil lurked and where no being could be trusted to behave well.... Tears began to well up in her eyes as she came to the increasing knowledge that she had grown to expect that people in her life would act toward her as if they were good and treat her as if she were good. Now the story showed her how she had been seduced by that which she believed to be good and that it was, in reality, part of the evil. She too had been betrayed, and she knew that she could never trust again. Her punishment, too was to last a lifetime. But she had not done wrong—she had been faithful to her childhood. She became enraged!

The People Respond:

Prayer by Desmond Tutu, Music by John Bell

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.
Compassion is ours, compassion is ours through him who loved us.**

ON THE SIXTH DAY...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Mark:

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. 34 And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." 35 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." 37 He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? 38 Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." 39 And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. 40 And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. 41 He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 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.

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

(repeat)

ON THE SEVENTH DAY...

A Reading for the future:

Revolutionary Patience (excerpt), Dorothee Solle;

Cries of the Spirit, Beacon Press, 1991

The People Respond:

Prayer by Desmond Tutu

Music by John Bell

Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;

light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.

Compassion is ours, compassion is ours through him who loved us.

Going forth in silence....