

Holy Friday
A Service of Remembrance
Evangelical United Church of Christ
April 9, 2004 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 (*unison*)**

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence
in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal.
Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood
that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love
and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

—Book of Worship, United Church of Christ

Anthem

“Who is This”
The Chancel Choir

John Ferguson

ON THE FIRST DAY...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke:

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.” Then he withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, knelt down, and prayed, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

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 SECOND DAY...

A Reading from our Tradition:

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

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 Luke:

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

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 FOURTH DAY...

A Reading from our Past:

Edited from “*Beyond Belief*” by Elaine Pagels

In the winter of 167 AD, when public hostility against Christians broke out in Smyrna, Roman police arrested Polycarp, whom they found hiding in a friend’s country estate. Accused of atheism (as a Christian), and ordered by the governor to swear an oath to the emperor’s *genius* (the spirit of his family), to curse Christ, and to say “Away with the atheists!” (the Christians), Polycarp refused.

Marched into the public stadium, the eighty-six-year-old bishop shook his fist at the hostile, noisy crowd and defiantly shouted, “Away with the atheists!” He was then stripped naked, bound to a stake, and burned alive.

Ireneus, visiting in Rome at the time, says that on that very afternoon, of February 23, 167, he heard a voice “like a trumpet call” revealing to him what was happening to his beloved teacher.

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 FIFTH DAY...

A Reading from our Present:

Alan Jermaine Lewis, “The Damage Done”
by Verlyn Klinkenborg, *Mother Jones*, March/April 2004

Alan Jermaine Lewis, 23, was serving in Baghdad as a machine gunner for the Army’s 3rd Infantry Division when the Humvee he was driving hit a landmine. Alan Jermaine Lewis lost both of his legs. He now reflects:

I remember every detail about my legs. Every detail from the scars to the ingrown toenails to the birthmarks to the burn marks. I made it a habit, even before I joined the military, to cherish every part of my body, because I would always look at it like, “What if this finger was gone, would I be able to function without it?” I don’t know why. Maybe it was God’s way of preparing me for what was going to happen.

I’ve always thought about death—just growing up in Chicago and living out here in this world. I had a friend when I was six years old, his name was Charles. He was shot in the head—I think it was a stray bullet. My oldest sister was killed by a stray bullet when I was just a couple of months old, and my father was killed when I was seven. He was being robbed. So death has always been around.

I’m actually glad that I did the military the way I did—that I lived in the world for a couple of years—because I never would have known what it would be like to live on my own and be able to have parties at my house and own a car and do things like that.

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 SIXTH DAY...

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke:

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

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:

When He Came (excerpt), Dorothee Solle;
Cries of the Spirit, Beacon Press, 1991

He needs you
that's all there is to it
without you he's left hanging
goes up in dachau's smoke
is sugar and spice in the baker's hands
gets revalued in the next stock market crash
he's consumed and blown away
used up
without you

Help him
that's what faith is
he can't bring it about
his kingdom
couldn't then couldn't later can't now
not at any rate without you
and that is his irresistible appeal

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....