

HOLY WEEK: 4

Maundy Thursday 9th April – Holy Week Reflection: 12:30-1pm & 7:30-8pm

Introduction:

Holy Week began with Jesus entering Jerusalem on a humble donkey. He is hailed as King; songs are sung and cloaks and palms are laid in his path as it would be for any ruler or royalty. But little do the people know that Jesus entering Jerusalem, the heart of God's people Israel, would be the culmination of His ministry on earth. Many will now turn away from Him and against Him because of His challenge to change. His teaching becomes stronger, His parables become more challenging. He shines light into darkness and evil hates Him for exposing its corruption. Jesus experiences a dichotomy of reaction to His presence as He reveals Truth by confronting dishonesty, exploitation, wickedness and all manner of wrongdoing. Those who are right with God love Him and follow Him to the end; those not right with God hate Him and are literally 'hell bent' on His destruction. This week follows the path of His final journey with its powerful challenges that charge us to contemplate our personal position. Jesus asks us, as He did those of His time, to look for Truth and make our own choice whether to turn away or follow Him to the end.

The Lord's Prayer: *all say together*

CD: Gregorian Chants **Track 11:** Vittoria, Sanctus and Benedictus

Matthew 26:6-13 *The Anointing at Bethany*

⁶Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came to Him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on His head as He sat at table. ⁸But when the disciples saw it they were angry and said, 'Why this waste? ⁹For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum, and the money given to the poor.' ¹⁰But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for Me. ¹¹For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have Me. ¹²By pouring this ointment on My body she has prepared Me for burial. ¹³Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

CD: Gregorian Chants **Track 11:** Vittoria, Sanctus and Benedictus; *continued...*

Reflection: *Place the oil in the display & light the three round scented candles.*

CD: Gregorian Chants **Track 11:** Vittoria, Sanctus and Benedictus; *continued...*

Matthew 26:14-16 *Judas receives 'blood money' to betray Jesus*

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, 'What will you give me if I betray Him to you?' They paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray Him.

CD: Gregorian Chants **Track 11:** Vittoria, Sanctus and Benedictus; *continued...*

Reflection: *Sprinkle 30 silver coins over the display*

CD: Gregorian Chants **Track 11:** Vittoria, Sanctus and Benedictus; *continued...*

Passover or Pesach means paschal lamb. During the oppression of the Egyptian Pharaoh, on the eve of their deliverance from slavery, a lamb was sacrificed for every Jewish household. The blood was daubed around the door lintel so the angel of death would know God's people were inside and pass over them without causing them any harm. The Passover feast is celebrated every year at full moon.

Matthew 26:17-25 *The Passover meal with His Disciples*

¹⁷On the first day of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus saying, 'Where do you want us to make the preparations for You to eat the Passover?' ¹⁸He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" ¹⁹So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. ²⁰When 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." ²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to Him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' ²³He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with Me will betray Me. ²⁴The 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." ²⁵Judas, who betrayed Him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, "You have said so."

CD: Gregorian Chants **Track 11:** Vittoria, Sanctus and Benedictus; *continued...*

Poem: BETRAYAL ©Janice Morgan 2019-April

The time of betrayal, who can prepare for it?
The ones that are closest will often turn and betray.
We love them and trust them and with us invite them to sit
But when push comes to shove, what choice they will make, no one can say?

When we think someone close is not entirely true,
When their words seem somehow slippery but delicious
What then should we think or do and what then should we construe
Was it something that we did or said that turned them malicious?

A secret blurted out or shared behind our back
Matters of a private nature now spread wide about
Gossip twisting truth from good to bad told by tongues too slack
They fill our hearts with sorrow, stir our anger and make us shout!

But what of the betrayer; is their conscience clear?
The heart can be deceptive but Truth the soul knows well
When wrongs are done injustice occurs hurting those held dear
Those who betray know the hurt they wreak and on it they must dwell.

Oh wretched betrayer. Oh ill-fated betrayed;
What is done cannot be undone; what is said unsaid
Repair of the harm cannot be made if Truth is delayed
Don't defend what is wrong but own up; don't fret, make peace instead!

Place the elements of the Lord's Supper in the display.

CD: Wait for the Lord **Track 7:** Eat this Bread – Taize

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to Me and never be hungry}
Eat this bread drink this cup, trust in Me and you will not thirst}...repeating
I Am the Bread of Life, the True Bread sent from the Father
Your ancestors ate manna in the desert but this is the Bread come down from heaven
If you believe and eat this bread you will have eternal life
Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to Me and never be hungry}
Eat this bread drink this cup, trust in Me and you will not thirst}...repeating

Matthew 26:26-30 *The institution of the Lord's Supper*

²⁶While 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." ²⁷Then He took a cup, after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new with you in My Father's Kingdom." ³⁰When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

CD: Wait for the Lord **Track 7:** Eat this Bread – Taize; *continued*

Silent Holy Communion:

If an ordained member of clergy is present, the Lord's Supper is given...

If there is no ordained member of clergy to preside, use the elements as a focus of reflection while listening to the music.

CD: Wait for the Lord **Track 7:** Eat this Bread – Taize; *continued*

Matthew 26:31-35 *Peter's Denial Foretold*

³¹Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of Me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" ³²But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." ³³Peter said to Him, "Though all become deserters because of You, I will never desert You." ³⁴Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny Me three times." ³⁵Peter said to Him, "Even though I must die with You, I will not deny You." And so said all the disciples.

CD: Wait for the Lord **Track 1:** O Lord Hear My Prayer – Taize

Repeating:...

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer:
Come and listen to me.

Meditation: For I Am Not Ashamed ©Janice Morgan 2019–April

For I am not ashamed!
What are we ashamed of?
What have we done that was wrong?
Do we instinctively know right from wrong?
And what is guilt that we should feel its pain?

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel:
But what is the 'Good News' it proclaims?
The Truth about Jesus and God's promise of salvation through Him!
When we are in trouble who do we go to for help?
Who do we trust to save us from disaster?

For I am not afraid of the Power of God:
The Truth will set us free – this is the power of God – Truth!
Do we believe that God is Creator of all things?
Do we believe that Jesus is God's Son, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin?
Do we believe that Jesus died and was raised from death to life in the flesh?

For I believe in salvation for everyone who believes
When we trust God we come to realise that we are saved.
When we follow Jesus His words and His life increase our faith
When we know we don't deserve it but know we are forgiven we are free
Life has been given, both now and forever, by the breath of the Spirit of God.

For I am not ashamed to say that I am Christian
For I am not ashamed to stand in faith for Truth
For I am not ashamed to tell others of my Saviour
For I am not ashamed to praise, and pray, and worship God
For I am not ashamed; for I am not ashamed; for I am not ashamed!

CD: Wait for the Lord **Track 1:** O Lord Hear My Prayer – Taize...*continued*

Matthew 26:36-46 *Jesus Prays in Gethsemane, the Garden of Agony*

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray. ³⁷He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then He said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here and stay awake with Me." ³⁹And going a little further, 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." ⁴⁰Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and He said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with Me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴²Again He went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done." ⁴³Again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, He went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵Then 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. ⁴⁶Get up, let us be going. See My betrayer is at hand."

CD: Wait for the Lord **Track 9:** Stay with Me – Taize

Stay with Me, remain here with Me, watch and pray, watch and pray....repeating
Watch and pray and don't give way to temptation
The spirit is eager, but the flesh is weak
My heart is nearly broken with sorrow
Remain here with Me, stay awake and pray
...Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by
Stay with Me, remain here with Me, watch and pray, watch and pray...repeating

Poem/Meditation: IN THE MIDST OF DARKNESS ©Janice Morgan-1998

In the midst of swirling darkness a voice cries out to God
Desperation's voice, enclosed and alone, in a fearful pod
A rumble of thunder moves across the sky
A flash of lightening tear's the dark clouds' awry
The heart felt plea has reached God's listening ears
Such pain and fear sends forth God's sweet tears
The lonely one so desperate and with such pain
Is washed and comforted by God's tears of rain
All clouds are dispersed at His voice of thunder
All darkness must flee from His lightening of wonder
The one who calls God's name with heart-felt passion
Will be soaked in the rain of His loving compassion
No fear shall be known, no feeling alone
God's love reaches all who will look to His throne.

CD 2: The best of Stuart Townend LIVE *volume 2* **Track 12** Gethsemane

To see the King of heaven fall
In anguish to His knees
The Light and Hope of all the world
Now overwhelmed with grief
What nameless horrors must He see
To cry out in the garden
Oh take this cup away from Me
Yet not My will but Yours
Yet not My will but Yours

To know each friend will fall away
And heaven's voice be still
For hell to have its vengeful day
Upon Golgotha's hill
No words describe the Saviours plight
To be by God forsaken
Till wrath and love are satisfied
And every sin is paid
And every sin is paid

What took Him to this wretched place
What kept Him on this road
His love for Adam's cursed race
For every broken soul
No sin too slight to overlook
No crime too great to carry
All mingled in this poisoned cup
And yet He drank it all
The Saviour drank it all...

The Saviour drank it all

What took Him to this wretched place
What kept Him on this road
His love for Adam's cursed race

HOLY WEEK Reflections – 2020 – Take Time Out – Half Acre

For every broken soul
No sin too slight to overlook
No crime too great to carry
All mingled in this poisoned cup
And yet He drank it all
The Saviour drank it all
The Saviour drank it all

Resources:

Materials for the display:...

A small table & A pure white table cloth set up beforehand to make the display as the reflection goes through.

Oil – Three scented candles - 30 silver coins – a small loaf – a goblet of red wine

CD: Gregorian Chants: *a collection of chants and liturgies from the monasteries of France*

CD: Wait for the Lord – Taize

CD 2: The best of Stuart Townend LIVE *volume 2*

Copies of: x7

Song: Gethsemane – Stuart Townend