

**Seaside United Methodist Church
Astoria First United Methodist Church
April 2, 2021**

*Combined
Good Friday Service*

Order of Worship

Invitation to Gather

Pastor Michael

O Crucified Savior, on this night of darkness and death, you poured out your love divine to fill our human emptiness. We come to the cross and stand in its shadow. Now, as day falls into night and despair overwhelms us, open wide your arms of grace. As our depravity rooted in thoughts, feelings, words, and actions, and all that we cling to that is not of God, we are overwhelmed and pray that you would open wide your arms of mercy. As our words give way to silence, in the face of our grief and despair over the rebellion within us that continues through us, open wide your arms of love. **AMEN**

Invitation to Pray

Congregation

Almighty God, graciously behold, this is your family, for whom our Lord Jesus was willing to be betrayed into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Invitation to Listen

Pastor Michael

God is light, in whom there is no darkness at all. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and we loved darkness rather than light.

Invitation to Worship

Pastor Michael

The parade of glad “hosannas” has given way to a mob of violence, and the path ahead is full of shadows. **Walk with us, O God of light.** Shadows in a garden of betrayal await. **Walk with us, O God of light.** Shadows in a courtyard of denial await. **Walk with us, O God of light.** Shadows of a cross of expediency and death await. **Walk with us, O God of light.** We come to walk the path Jesus walked— from the garden to the court, from the court to the cross, and from the cross to the

tomb. **Help us stand where hope is dying. Help us keep vigil when the light of love is fading. Help us walk with you, O God of light.**

Invitation to Hope

Congregation

The shadow of the cross calls us to face the suffering and brokenness of our world; to face the sinful injustices that create innocent victims; to face the forces of evil and the love of power that stand against the power of love.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Truly, truly I tell you: God suffers with those who are suffering. God grieves with those who are grieving. God weeps with those who are weeping. God labors with those who are laboring for justice. God sits with us, even in our brokenness. God is present with us, even in our darkness. **AMEN**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 52:13 –53:12

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall he sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths because of him, for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment, he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him. He has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore, I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors, yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

PSALTER

Excerpts from Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!” Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts. On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God. *Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.*

I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a broken fragment of pottery, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me. *They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid! Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!*

I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I will praise you: You who stand in awe of the Lord, praise the Lord! The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For the Lord reigns over all the nations. All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; *they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.*

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 10:16 –25

“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,” then he adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.” Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 18:1 –19:42

Invitation to Suffering (The Passion of Jesus Christ)

***AS THE GOSPEL LESSON CONCLUDES, THE CHRIST
CANDLE WHICH GIVES LIGHT TO OUR
GATHERING
IS EXTINGUISHED***

IN THESE MOMENTS OF DARKNESS, JESUS' BODY IS TAKEN TO THE GARDEN AND PLACED IN A NEW TOMB WHERE NO ONE HAD EVER BEEN LAID.

Invitation to the Tomb

John 19:38-42

After this Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the religious authorities, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So, he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So, because of the Jewish day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Invitation to Depart

Pastor Michael

We go forth into a world filled with darkness, but we are not alone. The One who holds all life, and the mystery of death is with us. **We are not alone. We will wait in hope.** We go forth into a world filled with grief, but we are not alone. The One who holds all hope, and the mystery of our faith is with us. **We are not alone. We will wait in hope.** In life, in death, in life beyond death: we are never alone. The One who holds all love, and the mystery of new life is with us. **We are not alone. We will wait in hope.**

***All depart in silence without hymn or dismissal,
as we await the coming resurrection***