

CALL TO WORSHIP

We are invited to witness the great acts of our Savior's love on this holy day.

We are called to look within ourselves and examine our life and our faith.

We are called to listen to the holy words Christ speaks to us.

God invites us to see deeply into the ways that we are to follow the One who is our Savior.

OPENING PRAYER Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we, who worship you this holy day, may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him. We offer our praise and thanksgiving, as we turn to you once again to learn the true meaning of selfless giving and servanthood. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PORTRAITS OF DARKNESS: TEMPTATION

Scripture Reading Mark 14.26-42

A Time of Silent Reflection on the Scripture

Prayer O Lord God, as we come to you on this night before the crucifixion, forgive us, we pray, for our failure to watch and wait with your Son, Jesus Christ. Make us bold to affirm your presence in our lives and help us to understand the sacrifice that you offer for each of us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PORTRAITS OF DARKNESS: ONE RAN AWAY

Scripture Reading Mark 14.43-52

A Time of Silent Reflection on the Scripture

Prayer Creator God, like Judas, we, too, confess that we oftentimes betray your Son, Jesus the Christ. When we fail to show compassion, when we turn away from those in need, when we keep the love you offer only to ourselves, in these ways we

neglect to share the spirit of Christ with your world. Forgive us, we pray, and free us today and always from the temptation toward betrayal. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PORTRAITS OF DARKNESS: FALSE WITNESSES

Scripture Reading Mark 14.53-65

A Time of Silent Reflection on the Scripture

Prayer God of all mercy, as we worship you today, we do proclaim to you that Christ is, indeed, the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God. As we worship, we praise your name and give you thanks for this most sacred gift. While others would refuse to believe in the One whom you have sent, help us tonight to renew our belief and continue our faithful witness. May we be constant in our efforts to offer Christ to a waiting world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PORTRAITS OF DARKNESS: TEARS

Scripture Reading Mark 14.66-72

A Time of Silent Reflection on the Scripture

Prayer God of grace and God of glory, as we hear the words of Peter's denial, we remember our own journeys of faith and those places where we have failed to be your obedient followers and your faithful church. We ask that your forgiveness might be upon us as we pray. Strengthen us, we ask, that we might renew our commitment to you for all the days before us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PORTRAITS OF DARKNESS: A CROWD STIRRED UP

Scripture Reading Mark 15.1-15

A Time of Silent Reflection on the Scripture

Prayer As we hear the words of the gospel, we remember once again how unfair were the events of Jesus' life. Through the ages, the cries of the crowd, "Crucify him!" ring in our ears and we

recall those times when we have lived as if Christ were dead as well. Forgive us, we pray again to you. Help us to know the joy that comes as we live in Christ and he lives in us, always to your glory. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**PORTRAITS OF DARKNESS: STRUCK.....MOCKED.....
CRUCIFIED**

Scripture Reading Mark 15.16-32
A Time of Silent Reflection on the Scripture

Prayer Holy God, like Simon of Cyrene, we hope that on our journeys of faith we, too, have stepped in now and again to the aid of Jesus Christ and that we, too, have shouldered the burden in Jesus' name for those who are weak, mocked, and stripped of all their humanity. May the lessons of Jesus' life become real in ours; may we reach out with open arms to those you have created in your image. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PORTRAITS OF DARKNESS: DARKNESS OVER THE LAND

Scripture Reading Mark 15.33-39
A Time of Silent Reflection on the Scripture

Prayer Almighty God, as we hear again the stories of Jesus' final days, we remember how painful those events must have been in his life and how much you must love each of us to have sacrificed him for the world's redemption. As we proclaim that he really is your Son, we remember this gift of love which you offer to us unconditionally and without price. May we be found, O gracious God, worthy of its acceptance. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

PORTRAITS OF DARKNESS: LINGERING LIGHT

Scripture Reading Mark 15.40-47
A Time of Silent Reflection on the Scripture

(continued on insert)



LISBON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Maundy Thursday
At Home Worship
April 1, 2021

Lingering Light (continued from back cover of the bulletin)

Prayer Creator God, like Joseph of Arimathea, we, too, await the coming of your Kingdom. Having come before you in worship to relive once again the events of Holy Week in the life of our Savior, may our spirits be renewed and may our hearts be cleansed of all unrighteousness. You alone forgive us our sins and guide us on the path that leads to life eternal. On Easter morning, we will rejoice in the Resurrection of the One whom we call our Savior and give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Light that forever shines in the darkness of our world. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen.

LOVE FEAST FOR MAUNDY THURSDAY

Even at the final meal he would share with his disciples, Jesus knew that God had given everything into his hands. Even in the face of impending death, Jesus knew that he had come from God and was returning to God. Even in the presence of disciples who would betray and deny him, he offered himself as a holy and living sacrifice. Out of our great love for Jesus, we partake of this love feast in his holy name.

Hold a glass of water in your hands.

Without water, there can be no life. In creation, the Spirit of God hovered over the water and brought forth light. God brought John to the Jordan River to call us to repentance. We were nourished in the water of the womb. We were baptized by water and the Spirit into God's family. Water reminds us of the gifts of creation that God has so abundantly given us, and of the love and grace we have all received. Remembering the meal Jesus shared with his disciples in the Upper Room long ago, drink of this water as you recall his great love for us.

Take a piece of bread in your hands.

Christ broke bread and fed the multitudes. Christ broke bread and formed a new covenant with his closest friends and with all who break bread in remembrance of him. Christ was made known to his disciples in the breaking of the bread. Bread reminds us that, just like individual grains of wheat are gathered together to make a single loaf, we who are scattered are one body in Christ. Remembering the meal Jesus shared with his disciples in the Upper Room long ago, eat of this bread as you recall his great love for us.

Prayer to Conclude the Love Feast Eternal God, we give you thanks for the assurances of your love which we realize in this feast. Grant that, as we have experienced Christ anew in these holy moments, we may bear witness to his presence in our lives so that others may come to know his love and grace.

CLOSING PRAYER Loving God, we have come into your presence on this holy day with gratitude as we remember the traditions of our faith and the ancient stories of Scripture that bind us together with the faithful through the ages. Inspire us anew with the memory of Jesus' sacrificial love for in his holy name we pray. Amen.

