



WORSHIPPING AT HOME

*with UCC Westerly
during the Covid-19 outbreak*

**April 10, 2020
Good Friday Prayers**

- Create a small worship space in your home anywhere. This will be a different space than what you have been preparing for Sunday mornings. It should be very plain and somber. If you participated in the Tenebrae service last evening, this would be an ideal setting for today.
- At 12:00pm settle into your worship space and begin...
- A reminder I will be streaming our worship service on Facebook Live. You can access it even if you are not on Facebook by going to the home-page of the church website, www.uccwesterly.org, and clicking on the Facebook icon.

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Light one candle as a reminder of God's presence.

Rest in the silence of the moment for a few minutes

The first reading – Luke 22:39-62 – Thursday night

- How did Jesus respond to his arrest?
- How did Peter respond?
- Prayer:
 - *Sweet Jesus who showed such courage and love in the face of your own death, grant us strength and courage for the living of these days when illness and death threaten all around. Amen.*

The second reading – Luke 22:66 – 23:25 – Friday morning

- How did Jesus respond at this first trial before the religious authorities?
- How did Jesus respond at his second trial before Pilate?
- How did Pilate respond to the demands for Jesus' death? Who is responsible for the death sentence for Jesus?
- Prayer:
 - *Sorrowful Jesus who faced down the crowd who days earlier had received you with joy, grant us awareness of the times when we are too quick to judge and condemn. Instead, fill us with your wisdom and*

patience and the ability to see beyond the surface of people and situations. Amen.

The third reading – Luke 23:36-49 – Friday afternoon

- What people did Jesus encounter in his final moments of life? How did he encounter them? What impact do you imagine these encounters had on them?
- What was the time frame while Jesus was on the cross?
- What manifestations happened when Jesus died?
- Where were the women and the disciples?
- Prayer:
 - *Broken Jesus, we grieve for the pain and anguish you suffered. We know that all Creation mourned your death, the emptiness of that moment when life left your body too painful to long consider. Hear our prayers of sadness and lament for you and for all who suffer needlessly. Show us the way to ease the suffering of so many all around us. Amen.*

The fourth reading – Luke 23:50-56 – Friday early evening

- What happened to Jesus' body? Who stepped up to help in this darkest of moments?
- After Jesus' body was placed in the tomb, what happened?
- How was the Sabbath observed?
- Prayer:
 - *Lifeless Jesus, imagining you in the cold, dark tomb reminds us too powerfully of all that we fear, of all the loved ones we have lost, of all the hopelessness we have endured. Empower us to face this moment in the tomb with you that in so doing we will face down our worst fears as we await the resurrection and renewal of Easter dawn. Amen.*

We end by embracing the silence and darkness of the tomb not yet empty as Jesus rests there in death.

Closing prayer in sung form: “Abide with Me”

1. *Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*
2. *Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*