**2021 GOOD FRIDAY PLAN FOR**

**“SEVEN LAST WORDS” BY SR.** [**FRANCE WHITE**](https://www.shcj.org/american/how-we-serve/shcj-artists/france-white-blank-cards-and-prints/)**, SHCJ**

**WELCOME Suzie**

Welcome to this time of quiet together with Jesus.

You may want to have pen and paper as you reflect.

**SETTLING IN Betty**

We are not all in the same physical space, but we can still be together by sharing a common breath.  So let us begin by slowly taking one collective breath together. In and out.   With each breath, allow the Spirit of God to settle deeper into you… and ground you in this moment. Allow your body to relax… your head and shoulders… arms and chest… abdomen and legs. Now let’s take 3 more breaths together.  One to be here…one to be ‘united in prayer… and one to make space for the gifts of this time together.

**CALL TO WORSHIP Suzie**

The liturgy of Good Friday is celebrated in the fullness of the Paschal Mystery. It is less a day of mourning and more a day of remembering, of seeing once again the boundless love of God expressed in the self-offering of Jesus of Nazareth.

We will focus on the Words that Jesus said on the cross, reflecting on what they mean to us in our lives on this day. Let us enter Jesus’ story as a prayer of solidarity with people who are suffering unjust persecution and death today – migrants; trafficking victims on street corners; young men lost in racist systems; inmates on death row; and others you can name.

Sister France White, the artist whose work we will view tonight writes: “When I decided to paint the seven last words, I first contemplated the words as they appear in the four Gospels seeking to feel with Jesus. No Gospel has all seven of the words. So after *being in* the words, I decided what order felt *most* like the progression of events and emotions.”

France uses a **red circle** for Jesus – red for his life blood; - the **color spectrum** to carry the emotional content.

You will see each painting on your screen. Mia and Tim Brown will read the words of Jesus and offer you several questions for silent reflection. We invite you to use your own experiences to place yourself close to Jesus, aware of all who suffer injustice. After the silence you will have a moment to jot down a word or two of what arose in you.

We will begin by singing “Were you there when they crucified my lord” led by Linda Donaldson. We will sing it two more times during the service -- after the 3rd and 7th Words. At those two times, we will also pause to share what is rising in us at that time. The richness of this community includes both spoken sharing and quiet listening.

Now let us begin our time with Jesus.

**MUSIC**: **Linda Donaldson**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**READING OF THE FIRST THREE WORDS Mia and Tim Brown alternate**

First Word (then Betty times 2 minutes, sounds chime)

…then brief pause before…

Second Word (then Betty times 2 minutes, sounds chime)

…then brief pause before…

Third Word (then Betty times 2 minutes, sounds chime)

…then brief pause before…

**MUSIC** **Linda**

Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?

**SHARING** **Suzie**

Invite sharing of reflections. Close by saying “Thank you” to let Tim and Mia know to begin again.

**FOURTH THROUGH SEVENTH WORDS Mia and Tim alternate**

Fourth Word (then Betty times 2 minutes, sounds chime)

…then brief pause before…

Fifth Word (then Betty times 2 minutes, sounds chime)

…then brief pause before…

Sixth Word (then Betty times 2 minutes, sounds chime)

…then brief pause before…

Seventh Word (then Betty times 2 minutes, sounds chime)

…then brief pause before…

**MUSIC** **Linda**

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

**SHARING** **Suzie**

Invite sharing of reflections. Close by saying “Thank you” to let Tim and Mia know to begin again.

**FINAL BLESSING Betty**

We close with the blessing titled “What Abides – for Good Friday” by Jan Richardson.

You will know  
this blessing  
by how it  
does not stay still,  
by the way it  
refuses to rest  
in one place.

You will recognize it  
by how it takes  
first one form,  
then another:

now running down  
the face of the mother  
who watches the breaking  
of the child  
she had borne,

now in the stance  
of the woman  
who followed him here  
and will not leave him  
bereft.

Now it twists in anguish  
on the mouth of the friend  
whom he loved;

now it bares itself  
in the wound,  
the cry,  
the finishing and  
final breath.

This blessing  
is not in any one  
of these alone.

It is what  
binds them  
together.

It is what dwells  
in the space  
between them,  
though it be torn  
and gaping.

It is what abides  
in the tear  
that the rending makes.

Amen.

—Jan Richardson  
from [*Circle of Grace*](http://janrichardson.com/books)

**CLOSING Stu Sklamm**

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (about 2 minutes, stop)

**Suzie or Betty:** As Stu continues to play, you may leave to enter into a time of shadows and vigil.

**Stu:** Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. (about 2 minutes)