**Solidarity with Sisters’ Communal Prayer**

**APRIL 10, 2022**

**Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion**

*“Let the same mind be in you that is in Christ Jesus.” Phil 1: 5*

**HELLOs and mute everyone (Betty)**

* Thanks to Judy Sholes and Maryann Dolan for preparing today’s prayer. Judy and Maryann…

**WELCOME (Judy Sholes and Maryann Dolan)**

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* As we begin, we want to remind you of a few things:
  + You will receive invitations and links for prayer together on Holy Thursday and on Good Friday, at 7:30 PM Eastern time on both days.
  + On Holy Thursday, please bring bread and a wine or whatever you would like as a special drink.
* Thanks to the people who will be reading and leading us in prayer today: Kate Monagan, Bill Fanelli, Anne Regan, Dan and Karen McCarthy, Pat and Greg Campbell, Peggy Thompson, Richard McGinnis, Bob Gallagher, George and Alicia Urban, Tim Brown. Charlotte Cook, Sr. Vera Ruotolo, Linda Donaldson, Nancy Sushinsky, and Arlene McGarrity.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please put a note in Chat or email later.

**SETTLING IN (Kate Monagan)**

Let your breath bring you into quiet so you can be attentive to each other and to the Spirit. Notice your breath as it goes in and out…. Let it slow and deepen… and slowly fill you with the peace of Christ. We begin with 3 deep breaths. One to be here… one to be together… and one to know the Spirit who never leaves us.

(Kate) Let us all now join in singing our opening hymn, “Jerusalem, My Destiny.”

**OPENING SONG “Jerusalem, My Destiny” by Rory Cooney**

(Betty: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mG6thyHErVc> ; stop at 3:10)

**OPENING RITUAL PRAYER** **(Maryann Dolan and Judy Sholes)**

(Maryann) Beloved Community … Jesus entered Jerusalem, the center of religious ritual and authority, on a colt, as a symbol of humility and peace.  The multitude of disciples began to praise him and shouted, “Hosanna, blessed is the King who comes. Blessed is the one who brings great joy. Hosanna in the highest.”

(Judy) (Response) O God, we hear your call.

Beloved Community … The exhilaration and the glimpse of a new day quickly shifts to suffering and finally death. As we listen to the scripture this morning, let us enter the passion of Jesus in a way that will move us to the same love, openness, compassion and faithfulness to God as Jesus shows us.

            O God, we hear your call.

Beloved Community …. We will hear the evangelist Luke’s unique focus on Jesus’ concern for others. As we listen to these passages, let us attempt to feel the emotions of Jesus’ suffering, how his pain affects others, and what effect it has on our own lives.

            O God, we hear your call.

Beloved Community …. We are called to be ambassadors of God, other Christs. In order to do so, Paul reminds us that we are to have the same mind as that of Christ Jesus. As believers, this is our destiny, our challenge, and our journey.

           O God, we hear your call.

Beloved Community … We have journeyed together this Lent “becoming, doing, and changing whatever it is that is blocking the fullness of life that is in us.”

O God, we hear your call…..

(Judy) And so we pray together…..

 I ask you, my sisters and brothers, to pray for me to our God.

Holy One, accept my deep sorrow for ways in which I participate in the brokenness of your world -- in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do.

Thank you for your endless love for me, and for your forgiveness that comes even before I ask.

Strengthen me to take an active part in bringing your grace to the world, in the company o~~f~~ all your children, all the saints, and all the Earth. Amen.

(Judy) We will now hear the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 23, verses 1-49, in five parts. After each part you will hear a question and have time for silent reflection, although a little less time than usual. Feel free to stay with any questions or thoughts of your choosing.

**Role Players**

Jesus – Bob Gallagher – RED

Pilate – Greg Campbell – PURPLE

First Criminal – George Urban – GREEN

Second Criminal – Tim Brown? – Orange

Spokesperson for various people (elders, chief priests, rulers) – Anne Regen - YELLOW

Several people shouting at almost the same time – Campbells and McCarthys - BLUE

**READING 1**  (Bill Fanelli)

The elders of the people, chief priests and scribes,  
arose and brought Jesus before Pilate.  
They brought charges against him, saying,  
“We found this one misleading our people,  
 opposing the payment of taxes to Caesar  
and maintaining that he is the Christ, a king.”  
Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”  
Jesus replied, “You say so.”  
Pilate then addressed the chief priests and the crowds,  
“I find this person not guilty.”  
But they were adamant and said,  
“He is inciting the people with his teaching throughout all Judea,  
from Galilee where he began even to here.”  
  
On hearing this Pilate asked if Jesus was a Galilean;  
and upon learning that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction,  
Pilate sent Jesus to Herod who was in Jerusalem at that time.  
Herod was very glad to see Jesus;  
he had been wanting this for a long time,  
for Herod had heard about Jesus.

and had been hoping to see him perform some sign.  
Herod questioned him at length,  
but Jesus did not answer.  
The chief priests and scribes, meanwhile,  
continued their harsh accusations.

Herod and the soldiers treated Jesus with contempt and ridicule,   
and after clothing him in resplendent garb,  
Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.  
Herod and Pilate became friends that very day,  
even though they had been enemies formerly.

*[Slight pause]*

**REFLECTION QUESTION (Dan McCarthy)**

How have you responded when you have been unjustly accused??

**SILENT REFLECTION** (**Betty -** show slide, **Judy** - ring bell after 90 seconds**)**

**READING 2 (Pat Campbell)**

Pilate then summoned the chief priests, the rulers, and the people  
and said to them, “You brought this person to me  
as someone who incites the people to revolt.  
I have conducted my investigation in your presence  
and have not found this person guilty  
of the charges you have brought,   
nor did Herod, who sent him back to us.  
So no capital crime has been committed by him.  
Therefore, I shall have Jesus flogged and then released.”  
  
But all together they shouted out,

“Away with this man!

Release Barabbas to us!”  
  
— Now Barabbas had been imprisoned for a rebellion  
that had taken place in the city and for murder. —  
Again, Pilate addressed them, still wishing to release Jesus,  
but they continued their shouting,

“Crucify him!  Crucify him! “

Pilate addressed them a third time,  
“What evil has this person done?  
I found him guilty of no capital crime.  
Therefore, I shall have him flogged and then release him.”

With loud shouts, however,  
they persisted in calling for Jesus’ crucifixion,  
and their voices prevailed.  
The verdict of Pilate was that the crowd’s demand should be granted.  
So he released Barabbas who had been imprisoned  
for rebellion and murder,  
and he handed Jesus over to them to deal with as they wished.

*[Slight pause]*

**REFLECTION QUESTION (Dan McCarthy)**

How have you stayed grounded during situations of violence, false accusation, or crowd mentality?

**SILENT REFLECTION** (Betty – slide; Judy – ring bell after 90 seconds.)

**READING 3 (Peggy Thompson)**

As they led Jesus away  
they took hold of Simon, a Cyrenian,  
who was coming in from the country;  
and forced Simon to carry the cross behind Jesus.  
A large crowd of people followed Jesus,  
including many women who mourned and lamented.  
Jesus turned to them and said,  
“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me;  
weep instead for yourselves and for your children  
for indeed, the days are coming when people will say,  
‘Blessed are the barren,  
the wombs that never bore  
and the breasts that never nursed.’  
At that time people will say to the mountains,  
‘Fall upon us!’  
and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’  
for if these things are done when the wood is green  
what will happen when it is dry?”

Now two others, both criminals,  
were led away with him to be executed.

*[Slight pause]*

**REFLECTION QUESTION (Dan McCarthy)**

How are you affected when you witness someone’s pain and suffering?

**SILENT REFLECTION** (Betty – slide; Judy – ring bell after 90 seconds.)

**READING 4 (Karen McCarthy)**

When they came to the place called the Skull,  
they crucified him and the criminals there,  
one on his right, the other on his left.  
Then Jesus said,  
“Father, Abba, forgive them, they know not what they do.”

They divided his garments by casting lots.  
The people stood by and watched;  
the rulers, meanwhile, sneered at him and said,  
“He saved others, let him save himself  
if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God.”  
Even the soldiers jeered at him.  
As they approached to offer Jesus wine, they called out,  
“If you are King of the Jews, save yourself.”  
Above Jesus there was an inscription that read,  
“This is the King of the Jews.”

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,  
“Are you not the Christ?  
Save yourself and us.”

The other answered the question with a rebuke,  
“Have you no fear of God,  
for you are subject to the same condemnation?  
And indeed, we have been condemned justly,  
for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,  
but this man has done nothing criminal.”  
Then he said,  
“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus replied to him,  
“Amen, I say to you,  
today you will be with me in Paradise.”

*[Slight pause]*

**REFLECTION QUESTION (Dan McCarthy)**

Where do you need to give or receive the grace of forgiveness?

**SILENT REFLECTION** (Betty – slide; Judy – ring bell after 90 seconds.)

**READING 5 (Richard McGinnis)**

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon  
because of an eclipse of the sun.  
Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle.  
Jesus cried out in a loud voice,  
 “Father, Abba, into your hands I commend my spirit”;  
and, saying this, Jesus breathed his last.

Pause for a short time.  
  
The centurion who witnessed what had happened glorified God and said,

“This was an innocent person, no doubt.”  
When all the people who had gathered for this spectacle  
saw what had happened,  
they returned home beating their breasts;  
but all his acquaintances stood at a distance,  
including the women who had followed him from Galilee  
and saw these events.

*[Slight pause]*

**REFLECTION QUESTION (Dan MCarthy)**

How do you stay with the pain, suffering and injustice of our world?

Where do you see hope in the pain, suffering and injustice in our world?

**SILENT REFLECTION** (Betty – slide; Judy - ring bell after 90 seconds.)

**( Judy) Charlotte Cook** will now lead our sharing.

**SHARING (Charlotte Cook)**

We invite you to briefly share what emerged in **your** heart this morning as you have reflected upon our reading and music. We welcome everyone who wants to speak, and we also know that the wisdom of this community includes both words shared and silent listening.

So let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. *[Long-ish pause]*

Now who would like to start our sharing? Remember to unmute yourself to speak and mute yourself again afterwards.

[Sharing]

[If there is silence more than about 30 seconds before anyone speaks:] Take whatever quiet you need before you speak.

[If there is extended silence during the sharing:] Is there anyone else who would like to share?  *[Pause for 2 slow, deep breaths.]*

*[Stop by about 11:20.]*

Thank you.  We have to stop now, and we can continue after the final song, as we often do.

(**Charlotte**) Now Sr. Vera Ruotelo will lead us in prayer.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY *(*Sr. Vera Ruotolo*)***

Let us pause in silence and notice the prayer that rises in us now.

Our response will be … Loving God, hear our prayer.

As we enter Holy Week, let us be mindful of emptying ourselves of all that distracts us from Jesus’ dying and rising and how it affects our lives. For this, we pray.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For all who suffer injustice and inequity that flows from oppression, division, natural disasters, privilege and greed, we pray,

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For the LCWR, women religious, and all of us who journey with them, that we may have the trust and hopefulness to enter a future we cannot see, we pray,

For the dedication and perseverance to listen deeply and engage ourselves for the sake of others in whatever ways we are able, we pray,

Loving God, hear our prayer.

For our world, that the power of love will overcome the love of power, and that all nations will strive for lasting peace, we pray.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

And for what else shall we pray ….

Loving God, we give you all these prayers, spoken and unspoken. We will do all that we can to put our prayers into action while entrusting the outcome to you.

**OFFERTORY (Alicia Urban)**

As our Lenten journey together is drawing to a close, it is good to take time to reflect on the intentions we made on Ash Wednesday. During this musical mediation, recognize your growth during these past weeks and identify the areas where you might need to plant additional seeds.

Musical meditation: “Change our Heart” by Rory Cooney

(Betty: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBDG_2gSOlQ>, fade about 2:35, stop 2:41.)

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Linda Donaldson)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened

to know that you trust us to be your body in this world.

We are part of that body as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We give you thanks for your presence in and among us.  *[Pause.]*

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them how to care for each other

as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet

and said, “… as I have done for you, you should also do.”

Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the wine,

gifts of Earth and the work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it.  *[Pause.]*

Let us know God within ourselves so that we become God’s living presence in our world. [Pause.]

Holy One, you transform us as you nourish us here.

May we nourish others with your presence.

Amen.

**OUR FATHER, OUR MOTHER (Nancy Sushinsky)**

Now let us join our hearts as if we could join our hands to pray in harmony with our family throughout the world:

**All (muted):**

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, We pray that your good will be done, Let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, Give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, From each one to each one. Lead us to holy innocence Beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. Amen.

**FINAL BLESSING (Arlene McGarrity)**

We live in a world filled with struggles,

disappointment, divisiveness, fears, hunger,

poverty, hatred, and selfishness.

May we recognize

The love that drives out hatred,

The courage that overcomes fear,

The joy that poverty and hunger cannot silence,

The peace that no evil can touch.

My God pry open our hearts

so we do not brood over our burdens and failures.

May we know that God is always with us…

in the midst of it all,

waiting for our return.

**CLOSING SONG: “Hosea - Come Back to Me With All Your Heart”** by Gregory Norbert (Betty – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32YSYJiCJEI>

- fade about 2:17 at end of chorus after “faithfulness” and stop about 2:21)

**RESOURCES**

Reflection for Lent 2022. The Beauty We Must Hold Fast To. Published by Pax Christi U.S.A

Dianne Bergant C.S.A, for theme inspiration and ideas for questions

Roger Karban.  [Fosilonline.com](http://Fosilonline.com), for information adapted for this service

Final Blessing: Adaptation of a prayer included in 100 Prayers for Faith Connection, compiled by John van Bemmel

Jerusalem, My Destiny by Rory Cooney,You Tube.

Change my Heart by Rory Cooney , You Tube

Come Back to Me (Hosea) by Gregory Norbet, sung by Westin Priory Monks, YouTube

Role Players

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Pilate – Greg Campbell – PURPLE

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