

MT. ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
REMEMBERING CHRIST'S SACRIFICE

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: A cradle and a cross; and between these--

People: A life.

Leader: Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

People: A birth and a death

Leader: One of sorrows who often wept.

People: One of joy who also kept sensitivity and compassion

Leader: Alive and real. Today let us feel

People: The surge of that life

Leader: The beauty of that love

People: The power of that cross.

WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Ah, Holy Jesus

by Helvey

CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ALL: Oh Lord, on this darkest of nights we sit with your disciples who abandoned you. We denied you three times, sat in the darkness afraid to show our faces much less do your will. We repent of small misdeeds to satisfy our consciences, for we cannot deal with our denial of you. We seek to find life apart from you, for the cross is too threatening for us. We want comfort, not sacrifice. We embrace privilege, not pain. Yet the love of Christ brings us to our knees in awe and wonder. As we listen to your story told again, O God, we hear once more how costly it was for you to be able to say, "in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven." Help us in our unbelief, and in our inaction.

Deliver us from sin and bring us home. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ALL SING (Hymn No. 229, Were You There?): Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

THE CANDLE OF JOY

Leader: It's over.

People: We are without joy.

L: We are finished.

P: We are without joy.

L: He has been arrested and killed.

P: We are without joy.

L: We can't keep going.

P: We are without joy.

L: He was our joy.

P: And now we are without him.

ALL SING (Hymn No. 229, Were you There?): Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

THE CANDLE OF HOPE

L: He told us we were blessed.

P: The hope is gone.

L: We were so close.

P: The hope is gone.

L: The bottom fell out.

P: The hope is gone.

L: He was our hope.

P: And now our hope is gone.

ALL SING (Hymn No. 229, Were You There?): Were you there when God wept at Mary's cry? Were you there when God wept at Mary's cry? O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when God wept at Mary's cry?

THE CANDLE OF PEACE

L: They nailed him to a tree.

P: There is no peace.

L: Angels said he was the one.

P: There is no peace.

L: The Prince, The Peace, the Everlasting One.

P: There is no peace.

L: He was the Prince of Peace.

P: And now we have no peace.

ALL SING (Hymn No. 229, Were You There?): Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb? Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb? O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

L: We saw the way he cared and healed.

P: The love light has gone out.

L: We witnessed his compassion.

P: The love light has gone out.

L: We watched him choose this sacrifice.

P: The love light has gone out.

L: We watched him love until the end.

P: And now we miss his love.

ALL SING (Hymn No. 229, Were You There?): Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

SCRIPTURE

Luke 4 and Luke 23

ALL SING (Hymn No. 223, vs. 1, 2, & 3): What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul, to bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing; To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

At the conclusion of the Lord's Prayer, we invite you to reflect for a moment on the sacrifice of Christ. After a few moments, the lights will come on and soft music will play. Please feel free to continue praying or exit quietly. We look forward to celebrating the Resurrection with you on Sunday morning.