

PRELUDE: "Cross of Sorrow" Susanna Keeney

GATHERING IN THE SHADOWS:

L: Sisters and brothers, why are we here, gathering in the shadows, in the flickering lights of candles tonight?

P: To tell what Jesus did in the midst of our brokenness.

L: Sisters and brothers, why are we here, gathering in the shadows, in the flickering lights of candles tonight?

P: To find a way to praise in the midst of our pain.

L: Sisters and brothers, why are we here, gathering in the shadows, in the flickering lights of candles tonight?

P: To join with the families of the earth, witnessing the miracle of grace in Christ's once-for-all sacrifice and covenant of grace. We ask that our hearts be opened on this "Good Friday." In the name of Christ, we gather. AMEN.

We Gather in the Shadow of the Cross at its furthest point. Then, as the story of Good Friday is told, the closer we draw to the cross, the darker the shadow becomes.

The First Shadow; the arrest of Jesus

L: Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus knew where Jesus would be—the Garden of Gethsemane....."shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?"

First candle is extinguished followed by silence

Second Shadow: Jesus is questioned

L: Jesus was bound and taken to Annas....."why do you strike me?"

Second Candle is extinguished followed by silence

Third Shadow; The Denial

L: Simon Peter who had followed Jesus, was standing and

warming himself.....Peter remembered that Jesus said Peter would deny him before the cock crowed. And Peter went away, weeping bitterly.

Third Candle is extinguished followed by A Prayer of Reconciliation for Good Friday.

L: Ever present Lord, on this Good Friday, our whole world is engulfed in shadows of darkness as we remember the story of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, torture and death. It hurts to watch your light overtaken by the shadows of the world.

P: May you help us find our place in the crucifixion story, O Lord; the pain of faithless decisions, betrayal, injustice, violence. We confess to being afraid to enter this pain. May you offer us glimpses of hope in the shadow of death, that you are always present with us.

Fourth Shadow: The Trial of Jesus

L: Jesus was led from Caiphas' house to Pilate's headquarters. Pilate asked.....After Pilate asked, "What is truth?" he told them, "I find crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover. They cried out again, "Not this man, but Barrabas." Barrabas was a robber and a murderer.

Fourth Candle is extinguished followed by hymn #218 "Ah Holy Jesus."

Fifth Shadow: Jesus is tortured.

L: Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him....They handed him over to be crucified.

P: He has borne the evil of our hearts, my heart. He is healing the brokenness of my sinful soul.

Fifth Candle is extinguished followed by silence.

