



6:45pm

Holy Wednesday

March 28, 2018

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Let us hear together the prophesy of Jeremiah, from the Lamentations of Jeremiah the Prophet 1:1-14

### LESSON 1

Aleph. How solitary lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow has she become, she that was great among the nations! She that was queen among the cities has now become a vassal.

Beth. She weeps bitterly in the night, tears run down her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies.

Gimel. Judah has gone into the misery of exile and of hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; all her pursuers overtook her in the midst of her anguish.

Daleth. The roads to Zion mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan and sigh; her virgins are afflicted, and she is in bitterness.

He. Her adversaries have become her masters, her enemies prosper; because the Lord has punished her for the multitude of her rebellions; her children are gone, driven away as captives by the enemy. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

**PRAYER (together) On the mount of Olives Jesus prayed to the Father: Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me. Watch and pray, that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

### LESSON 2

Waw. And from Daughter Zion all her majesty has departed; her princes have become like stags that can find no pasture, and that run without strength before the hunter.

Zayin. Jerusalem remembers in the days of her affliction and bitterness all the precious things that were hers from the days of old; when her people fell into the hand of the foe,

and there was none to help her; the adversary saw her, and mocked at her downfall.

Heth. Jerusalem has sinned greatly, therefore she has become a thing unclean; all who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness; and now she sighs, and turns her face away.

Teth. Uncleaness clung to her skirts, she took no thought of her doom; therefore her fall is terrible, she has no comforter. "O Lord, behold my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

### SOME WORDS OF PEACE

PRAYER *(together)* **We watch as Jesus is betrayed. We flee, and seek our own safety. Behold, the hour is at hand.**

### LESSION 3

Yodh. The adversary has stretched out his hand to seize all her precious things; she has seen the Gentiles invade her sanctuary, those whom you had forbidden to enter your congregation.

Kaph. All her people groan as they search for bread; they sell their own children for food to revive their strength. "Behold, O Lord, and consider, for I am now beneath contempt!"

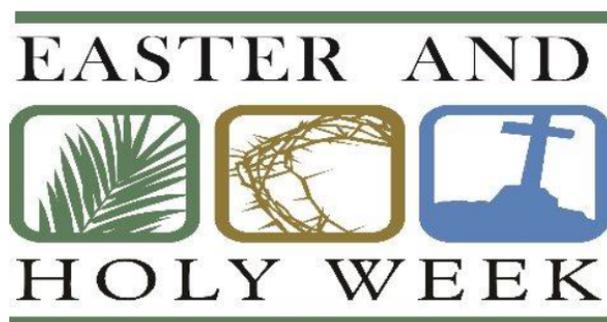
Lamedh. Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which was brought upon me, which the Lord inflicted; on the day of his burning anger.

Mem. From on high he sent fire, into my bones it descended; he spread a net for my feet, and turned me back; he has left me desolate and faint all the day long.

Nun. My transgressions were bound into a yoke; by his hand they were fastened together; their yoke is upon my neck; he has caused my strength to fall. The Lord has delivered me into their hands, against whom I am not able to stand up. Jerusalem, Jerusalem, return to the Lord your God!

PRAYER *(together)* **He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. By his suffering, we are healed. Amen.**

We welcome the Peace Walkers from the  
**Nipponzan Myohoji Peace Pagoda**  
of Western Massachusetts who are on their 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk  
for a New Spring



**Holy Week & Easter at Christ Congregational Church**

*You are invited to:*

**Palm Sunday**, March 25<sup>th</sup> – 9:55 a.m. Worship with Communion & Palms

**Maundy Thursday**, March 29<sup>th</sup> – 7p.m. Communion & Tenebrae

**Good Friday**, March 30<sup>th</sup> – 7p.m. Service of Reflection & Song

**Saturday**, March 31<sup>st</sup> – 10:00 a.m. Easter Activities For Kids

**Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> Schedule:**

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service led by our Confirmation Class

7:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast

9:25 a.m. Pre-Service Music in Sanctuary

9:55 a.m. Family Easter Service with bells, brass, & choirs

Christ Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
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