CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA

First Congregational Church of Stoughton
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
An Open and Affirming Congregation

April 9, 2020 7:00pm

Welcome to this evenings worship. Maundy Thursday is the time in Holy Week when we remember Jesus gathering with his disciples for the Last Supper. The Tenebrae service is a time of scripture and song, candlelight and shadow.

WELCOME Rev. Mary Perry

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Israelites cried out to God in their fear and distress.
Their voices still echo around the globe:
in China, Italy, the United States, and elsewhere.
God hears the cries of the suffering,
and delivers those who wait on God.
All who suffer, who die, who are isolated
are precious to God;
Let us love the Lord who restores,
And gives us hope for peace.
Today we remember the One who gave himself for us,
Jesus the Christ.
Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Ann-Marie Illsley

SONG 'O Sacred Head Now Wounded' Shirley Hunt, viola de gamba

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

FIRST READING Matthew 26:20-25 Moriah Illsley Park

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, 'Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.' And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, 'Surely not I, Lord?' He answered, 'The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.' Judas, who betrayed him, said, 'Surely not I, Rabbi?' He replied, 'You have said so.'

SECOND READING Matthew 26:26-30 Kevin Monahan

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and after

giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.' When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

THIRD READING Matthew 26:31-35 Karl Koza

Then Jesus said to them, 'You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."
But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.' Peter said to him, 'Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.' Jesus said to him, 'Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.' Peter said to him, 'Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.' And so said all the disciples.

SUNG RESPONSE

Were you There, vs. 1

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
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?

FOURTH READING Luke 22:39-44 Judy Copley

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, 'Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.' Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, 'Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.' Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

FIFTH READING Mark 14:32-36 Luanne Cockshaw

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'

SIXTH READING Mark 14:37-42 Jeff Illsley Jr.

He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, 'Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. He came a third time and said to them, 'Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The

hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.'

SUNG RESPONSE

Were you There, vs. 2

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

SEVENTH READING John 17:1-6 Marcia Olson

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

EIGHTH READING John 17:15-22 Patricia Illsley

I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.

SUNG RESPONSE

Were you There, vs. 3

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
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 they laid him in the tomb?

NINTH READING John 18:1-5 Janice Urban

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his

disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, 'For whom are you looking?' They answered, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' Jesus replied, 'I am he.' Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

TENTH READING Mark 15:16-20 Chris Madden

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

SUNG RESPONSE

Were you There, vs. 1

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
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?

ELEVENTH AND TWELFTH READING John1:1,4,14,10,12,3:19(paraphrased)
Jeff Illsley, Jan Howard

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.
He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,
And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

EARTHQUAKE ---(you can join in by banging a book or stomping your feet).

LORD'S PRAYER

RECESSION OF THE CHRIST CANDLE