

**Iao United Church of Christ**

**Good Friday**

**Virtual Liturgy**

**April 10, 2020 @ 7p.m.**

**Join us every Sunday at 9:30am for Virtual Worship:**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/iaoucc/>

88.1 FM Radio Station (within 1 mile of the church campus)

<https://hymnary.org/hymnal/NCH1995>

**Prelude ..... “Were You There?”**

**New Century Hymnal #229**

African-American spiritual. Arr. Joyce Finch Johnson, 1992

<https://hymnary.org/hymnal/NCH1995>

**Welcome and Announcements:**

- Reminder that on Sunday, we will have communion once again so please have your elements ready.

**Centering Words (*John 19*)**

Tonight, we find ourselves surrounded by the darkness of an invisible virus. Tonight, we remember when LOVE entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, is now on this cross – crucified like a common criminal. Because those who once shouted “Hosana in the Highest” are now shouting “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” Darkness is falling. Our journey ends here, at the foot of your cross. Our journey ends where love comes to die.  
(*Strike the Tibetan Bowl three times*)

**Let us Open our Worship with Our Call to Worship (*John 19*)**

Rong: When we are lost and lonely,

**Many: Jesus, remember me.**

Rong: When worry threatens to crush our spirits,

**Many: Jesus, remember me.**

Rong: When our words wound the people we love,

**Many: Jesus, remember me.**

Rong: When we treat others with contempt and disdain,

**Many: Jesus, remember me.**

Rong: When we come into God's kingdom,

**ALL: Jesus, remember me. Welcome me home.**

**Opening Hymn..... “O Great Spirit”**

**Sing! Prayer & Praise Hymnal #91**

Various Artists – Topic Provided to YouTube by CD Baby O Great Spirit · Kate Marks, Diug Hewitt, Ken Laroche  
Circle of Song-Chants and Songs for Ritual and Celebration © 1999 Kate Marks. Released on: 1999-01-1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qd2lkzb2f98>

**O Great Spirit, earth, sun, sky and sea,**

**You are within (inside) and all around me.**

**Opening Prayer (John 19) Please join with me in our opening prayer:**

**Lord, our journey ends here, at the foot of the cross. Darkness is falling. The crowd is restless. Our hearts break, as your cries pierce the night. Stay with us, Lord, for we need you close at hand. And when the night is over and the journey continues, give us the courage to stay with you. Amen,**

**Hymn ..... “Jesus Remember Me” Taizé Style**  
*(you may light a candle at this time)*

**Litany of Confession (Isa 53, John 19)**

Pastor Tino: Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our iniquities.

**Many: I am the one who held the nails.**

Rong: We accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

**Many: I am the one who raised the hammer.**

Pastor Tino: But he was wounded for our transgressions.

**Many: I am the one who rolled the dice.**

Rong: He was crushed for our iniquities.

**Many: I am the one who pointed and laughed.**

Pastor Tino: Upon him was laid the punishment that made us whole.

**Many: I am the one for whom he died.**

**Rong: By his bruises, we are healed.**

**ALL: When I know not what I do, do not withhold your love, for we long to be made whole.**

### **God's Assurance to Us (*Heb 10*)**

Even as he hung on the cross, Jesus spoke words of love. To the thief, to his tormentors, to a world of sinners, our Lord says: "I will remember your sins no more." For us, Jesus carried that cross. For us, Jesus bled and died. For us, Jesus spoke words of love. For us, Jesus hears our call against this unforgiving virus. For us, Jesus offers forgiveness and grace.

All the readings are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

### **Proclamation and Response**

*(Place seven candles on the altar. After each word, scripture, and response is read, extinguish one candle. It is powerful to accompany the extinguishing of each candle with the ringing of a single bell and a slight darkening of the sanctuary or worship space. The sayings of Jesus are adaptations; the response is Isa 53:6 NRSV.)*

### ***Tenebrae* Liturgy**

**FIRST WORD: "Creator, forgive them, for they know not what they do."**

#### ***Luke 23:32-38***

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Creator, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and

saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

**Hymn of Response ..... "Jesus Remember Me"**  
**Taizé Style**

Text: Luke 23:42, Taizé Community, 1981

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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One: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.

**Many: We have all turned to our own way.**

*(Extinguish first candle)*

**Time of Silence & Meditation Begins & Ends with the Striking of the Tibetan Bowl.**

**SECOND WORD: "Today, you shall be with me in paradise."**

***Luke 23:39-43***

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**Hymn of Response ..... "Jesus Remember Me"**  
**Taizé Style**

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One: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.

**Many: We have all turned to our own way.**

*(Extinguish second candle)*

**Time of Silence & Meditation Begins & Ends with the Striking of the Tibetan Bowl.**

**THIRD WORD: “Woman, mother, behold your son.” “Behold your mother.”**

***John 19:23-27***

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.” And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

**Hymn of Response ..... “Jesus Remember Me”  
Taizé Style**

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**One: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.**

**Many: We have all turned to our own way.**

***(Extinguish third candle)***

**Time of Silence & Meditation Begins & Ends with the Striking of the Tibetan Bowl.**

**FOURTH WORD: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**

***Matthew 27:45-49***

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

**Hymn of Response** ..... “*Jesus Remember Me*”  
**Taizé Style**  
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One: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.

**Many: We have all turned to our own way.**

*(Extinguish fourth candle)*

**Time of Silence & Meditation Begins & Ends with the Striking of the Tibetan Bowl.**

**FIFTH WORD: “I thirst.”**

***John 19:28-29***

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

**Hymn of Response** ..... “*Jesus Remember Me*”  
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One: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.

**Many: We have all turned to our own way.**

*(Extinguish fifth candle)*

**Time of Silence & Meditation Begins & Ends with the Striking of the Tibetan Bowl.**

**SIXTH WORD: “It is finished.”**

***John 19:30***

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**Hymn of Response** ..... “*Jesus Remember Me*”  
**Taizé Style**  
Text: Luke 23:42, Taizé Community, 1981

One: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.

**Many: We have all turned to our own way.**

*(Extinguish the sixth candle)*

**Time of Silence & Meditation Begins & Ends with the Striking of the Tibetan Bowl.**

**SEVENTH WORD: “Abba, Father, Creator, into your hands I commit my spirit.”**

***Luke 23:44-49***

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land[a] until three in the afternoon, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Abba, Father, Creator, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, “Certainly this man was innocent.” And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

**Hymn of Response ..... “Jesus Remember Me”  
Taizé Style**

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One: And we, like sheep, have gone astray.

**Many: We have all turned to our own way.**

*(Extinguish the seventh candle)*

**Time of Silence & Meditation Begins & Ends with the Striking of the Tibetan Bowl.**

**Invitation to Reflect on the Cross (Ps 22)**

*(During this time, you are invited to reflect on issues you wish to bring before Jesus, crucified on the cross.)*

**Hymn of Response ..... “Jesus Remember Me”  
Taizé Style**

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Pastor Tino: Our brokenness leaves us in need of God’s love and grace.  
With arms spread wide, our Lord invites us to find healing and wholeness.  
Let us bring our brokenness before God, knowing that we are not  
forsaken.

**Closing Prayer in Unison (*John 19*)**

**What can we bring you today, Lord?  
Your sacrifice is so great;  
    our gifts seem so meager.  
Yet you open your arms to us  
    and accept us as we are.  
Take our offerings and use them, Lord,  
    for the healing of your kingdom. Amen.**

**Extinguishing of the people’s candles:** (*Extinguish ALL the candles up  
front – shouting – “Crucify him! Crucify him!”*)

**We Go Out Bringing the Weight of our Lives...in nail form: I place  
these nails into this bucket for those suffering and who have died from  
the covid19 virus.**