

THE FIRST CHURCH OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

Holy Thursday Service

April 9, 2009

7:00 P.M.

“Journey to Gethsemane”

by
James Montgomery

*Journey to Gethsemane, go and feel the tempter’s power;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, watch the anguish of this hour;
Do not hid or turn away: learn from Jesus how to pray (Vs. 1)*

GREETING

CHALICE LIGHTING

The writer of the Biblical pastoral letter to the people of faith at the first church in the city of Philippi encouraged the congregants to compare their humility with the humble attitude of Jesus. He wrote: your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature of God...humbled himself...And became obedient to death even death on a cross. We light this candle to honor the spiritual principle of a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

UNISON PRAYER

Everlasting God, who was and is and is to come, we are grateful that You have invited us here as guests to a banquet, as witnesses to Your holy love. Inspire our singing, our praying, our words of devotion, so that Your Spirit may come alive in us once again. Let our worship this evening bring the stories and passions of scripture to a new life for us. Amen.

* HYMN “Lord of the Dance” H No. 163

FOOTWASHING COMMAND

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

* HYMN “Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?”

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser- vant, let me be as Christ to you?
 2 We are pil- grims on a jour-ney, we are trav- elers on the road;
 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad- ow of your fear;
 4 I will weep when you are weep- ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
 5 When we sing to God in heav- en we shall find such har- mo- ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser- vant, too.
 We are here to help each oth- er go the mile and bear the load. -
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor- row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
 Born of all we've known to- geth- er of Christ's love and ag- o - ny.
 (repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

MEDITATION “Lasting Things” Rev. Ashton

* HYMN “Break Thou the Bread of Life” H No. 250

THE LORD’S SUPPER 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

* HYMN “Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley” H No. 192

*** CONFESSION** (Based on John 13:24)

L: *Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?*

P: I am here.

L: *Peter, slave of fear, where are you?*

P: I am here.

L: *Thomas, slave of doubt, where are you?*

P: I am here.

L: *Men and women of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule, where are you?*

P: I am here.

L: *Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?*

P: I am here.

*** HYMN** "Are Ye Able" H No. 188

TENNEBRAE (Shadows and silent praying)

Shadow of Betrayal Matthew 26:20-25

Shadow of Desertion Matthew 26:31-35

The Unshared Vigil Mark 14:32-41

Arrest in the Garden Mark 14:43-52

Before the Sanhedrin Mark 14:53-65

Shadow of Denial Mark 14:66-72

Shadow of Violence Mark 15:1-15

Shadow of Mockery Mark 15:16-20

The Word Was God John 1:1-4, 14

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*** HYMN** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" H No. 190

*** DEPART IN SILENCE**