

Good Friday Worship-At-Home

We've all been Zooming and streaming and the screens are starting to hurt our eyes. This is a service, well, or maybe it's better described as an experience with the text, for you to print out (or have open on your screen if your eyes can handle it!) and worship on your own, at whatever time you like, in whatever space you choose, at whatever pace works for you.

What you'll need:

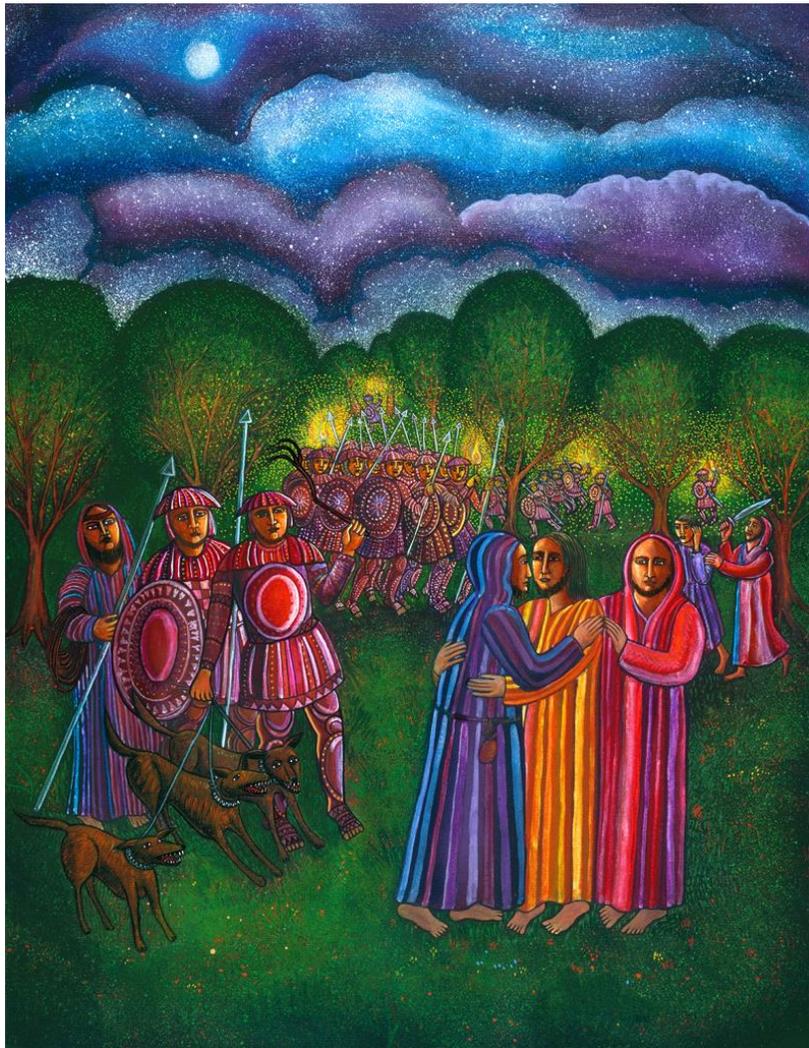
A bible, or access to the bible online.

Something to write with/on- like a journal or a piece of paper and a pen.

Some free time.

A comfortable space.

Take some time today to spend with the story, through image, word, prayer, and sharing:



"The Kiss of Judas" by John Austin

Read: Matthew Chapters 26 & 27

Yup. It's a lot. But it's the story. It's our story. It's how we eventually get to Easter morning. Read these two action-packed chapters listening for different voices, different choices, and different perspectives. Keep a note pad next to you while you're reading, and take notes of what you notice: who is speaking and who isn't speaking, what is interesting about the setting, what fears are named clearly and what fears to you suspect, which voices are obeyed and which ones are ignored? What hurts- where do you notice pain, suffering, and loss? What images pop up for you? Which lines make you feel something? What do you wonder about? What is it like for you to stop at the end of Chapter 27 and not move forward in the story?

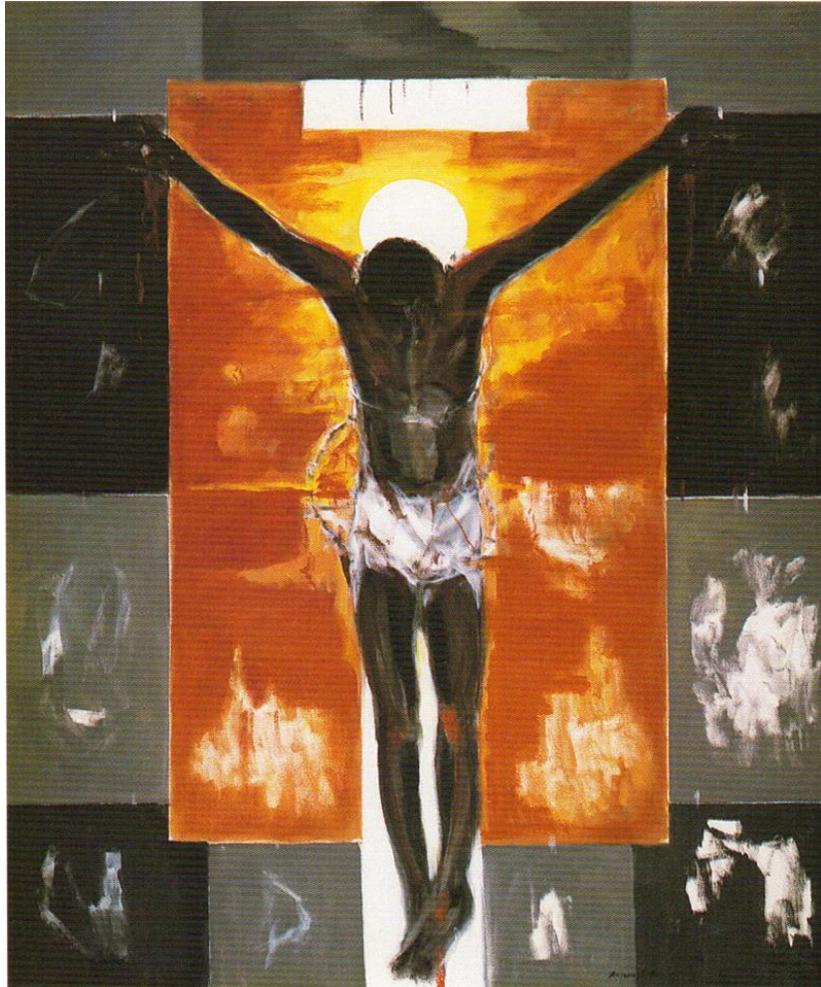
You don't have to answer all of those questions, they're just out there to get you thinking about the text. If you're worshipping and reflecting on your own, journal about this a little. If you're worshipping with others, discuss your notes together. Maybe your notes are a list, maybe they remind you of a poem or a song, maybe you end up sketching a scene, or writing a whole letter, or maybe it's a conversation with a family member... wherever your creativity and this text take you, the whole exercise is to spend a little time with the story. There's no wrong way to do this!



"Pilate Washes His Hands" Mid-Fourth Century Sculpture

Prayer:

God of all love and wisdom, on this Good Friday, we remember. We remember the suffering and the pain, we remember the betrayal and the abandonment, we remember the rejection and the fear. We remember how you loved us, and we didn't understand. We remember how you loved us, and we hurt you. We remember how you loved us, and we thought you were lost. We remember the violence and the greed, we remember the anger and the control, we remember the agony and the loneliness. We remember you- your story, your journey, your death. We remember, and we awkwardly and uncomfortably sit in that memory. We rest in the horror. We weep in the grief. O God, hold our lament, hold our remembering, hold our hurt, and wait with us here. AMEN.



"Cristo Negro" by Martin Ruiz Anglada

Share:

In our story today, we paid attention to the hurting. Friends, where do you notice hurting in our world today? How can we share the love and hope of God into those spaces? Can you write a note, color a picture, make a phone call, offer a donation, send a video hug, advocate to an elected official, sing a song, write a lament, or simply tell someone that you love them? What is one way, today, that you can help someone else carry their hurt, feel a little less alone, and experience God's love. (Now, go and do that....)

May God's love enter even the painful parts of this week. May God's grace find us and reach us as we lament. May God's presence hold us, when we aren't sure what else to say or do or be..... AMEN.



“Mourning of Jesus” by Jacques Le Breton and Jean Gaudin

IMAGES

All images from Vanderbilt University Art in the Christian Tradition Digital Library and used with permissions granted through the project.

1. Swanson, John August. Kiss of Judas, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56551> [retrieved April 9, 2020]. Original source: www.JohnAugustSwanson.com - copyright 2008 by John August Swanson.
2. Pilate Washes his Hands, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=51245> [retrieved April 9, 2020]. Original source: Collection of J. Patout Burns and Robin M. Jensen.
3. Ruiz Anglada, Martin. Cristo Negro, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56618> [retrieved April 9, 2020]. Original source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ruizanglada - Cristo Negro 180x150 1995 A-L - Catalogo 1995 Palacio de Sastago Zaragoza.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ruizanglada_-_Cristo_Negro_180x150_1995_A-L_-_Catalogo_1995_Palacio_de_Sastago_Zaragoza.jpg).
4. Le Breton, Jacques ; Gaudin, Jean. Mourning of Jesus, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=51565> [retrieved April 9, 2020]. Original source: Collection of Anne Richardson Womack.