



Preparing for worship
Before the service begins, you will need to gather for each person: a branch from a shrub; some coins; a white cloth; a thorn; a nail; a stone.

To access the full service online, go to <https://livestream.com/ggservices/ssuc>

Gathering with God *If you wish, light a scented candle if you have one, and say:*

We light this candle, remembering the many others who light the candle in their homes this day. We recall the words of scripture "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Pray

Say this aloud, if you are with others you may wish to share the paragraphs between you.

Forgiving God, we come before you, on this most difficult of days, at this most difficult of times, prayerful, reflective, and forever thankful, for the love poured out, in the life and death of your son Jesus Christ.

How can we weather the sorrow that comes as we reflect on the events, that we remember today?

Loving God, we offer ourselves to you, in your mercy, we pray that your love, shown on that day, and every day since, continues to shine a light in our lives.

How can we thank you, when you have given everything for us?

For our lives, our loves, our joys. How, O God, can we express our gratitude for the constant embrace of your love, for the knowledge of the life of Christ.

Gracious God, we are consumed in our concern for our world, isolated from many that we love.

Eternal God, on this day of sorrow, we cannot escape the promise of hope, the surety that the darkness will pass, and the light of the world will shine forever. Amen.

We sing together: When I survey the wondrous cross

The Garden

Hold the olive branch in your hand and read John 18:1 – 2b.

The Betrayal

Hold the coins in your hand and read John 18:2a, 3

The Surrender

Hold the white cloth in your hand and read John 18:4-14

The Desertion

Hold nothing in your hand and read John 18:15-18, 25-27

The Suffering

Hold the thorn in your hand and read John 18:28-19:3

The Crucifixion

Hold the nail in your hand and read John 19:4 -18

The Burial

Hold the stone in your hand and read John 19:38-42

We sing together: O Praise the Name (Anastasis)

Affirmation / Blessing

Say this aloud. If with another person or more, share the sentences around.

May God of all Goodness bless you. On this Good Friday, with its symbol of the Cross of Love, we Christians fully participate in the mystery of Death and Life. In facing our fear of death, we can realistically embrace the daily gift of life. May you embrace the belief that love is the strongest power and that nothing can separate the beloved from lover, friend from friend. May you see this day as Good Friday because, as in Jesus' life, so with yours, God wraps you with courage in your troubles, and strength in your distressing times. When all seems impossible, may you lean on the Cross and rest at the foot of the Cross. This day, may you be blessed with the goodness of God's extravagant Love.

Mary Ann Barrett, OP

