



**First Week of Lent: Betrayal
February 21, 2021**

Prelude

“Here in the Silence”

Arr. Kevin Boesiger

St. John’s Chancel Choir 3/10/19

Welcome

WELCOME to Week One in the At the Crossroads series, in which Judas Iscariot comes to the point where he must either listen to Jesus or listen to the devil and he chooses to betray Jesus. When we are tempted by Satan to betray our Lord, we gain strength from our Savior to say, “No”. Let this service’s Scripture, children’s sermon, sermon dialog with Judas and hymns help us avoid the crossroads of betrayal.

And remember these words:

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”

Centering Prayer

Let us center ourselves for worship:

O God, we choose to follow you. May this worship give us what we need as we face the crossroads of life. Equip us today to learn how to make decisions that lead to you rather than self-interest and empty distractions. We will hear the story of Judas’s betrayal of you. May we hear what we need to hear. Amen

We Gather Together

As we begin worship, we invite you to use this time during the prelude for quiet reflection, prayer, or lighting a candle wherever you are.

Opening Responsive Reading

I love the Lord, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.

Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.

I have chosen the way of faithfulness.

I set your rules before me.

I cling to your testimonies, O Lord.

let me not be put to shame!

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God.

He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

Therefore, we give glory to God who raised him up and gave us the promise of salvation. Amen.

Opening Hymn (to the tune **Jesu Kreuz, Leiden Und Pein**)

Jesus, I will ponder now on your holy Passion;
With your Spirit me endow for such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith may the image cherish
Of your suffering, pain, and death that I may not perish.

Make me see your great distress, anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness and your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, spear and nails did wound you,

How you died for those, O God, who with thorns had crowned you.

If my sins give me alarm and my conscience grieve me,
Let your cross my fear disarm, peace and pardon give me.
Grant that I may trust in you and your holy Passion;
If his Son forgives anew, God must have compassion.

Jesus, Lord, my heart renewed, let me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from you, peace despite my losses.
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above sing your praise forever.

Prayer of Confession

Lord of all mercy, we come to you with bowed heads and bended knees seeking your pardon. We confess that we have turned away from the Savior in thought, word, and deed. We have sought our own way, forgotten his sacrifice for us, chosen the easy way at the crossroads of betrayal. Forgive us, Lord. Strengthen our faith, confirm our commitment to Jesus' way, empower us by the Spirit to live the life of faithful witness to your love for us in Jesus Christ.

Words of Assurance

At the command of the Savior who offered himself for us, I announce to you the full and free forgiveness of all of your sins. May the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts and fill your lives.

We Listen to God's Word

As we continue our worship, we invite you to use this time to hear words of encouragement, affirmation, and challenge. Let us listen to what God might be saying...

Children's Message

"Betrayal"

Pastor Roben

Gospel Reading, John 13:21-30

Rita Solie

After saying these things, Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified, "Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was reclining at table at Jesus' side, so Simon Peter motioned to him to ask Jesus of whom he was speaking. So that disciple, leaning back against Jesus, said to him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. Then after he had taken the morsel, Satan entered into him. Jesus said to him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." Now no one at the table knew why he said this to him. Some thought that, because Judas had the moneybag, Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. So, after receiving the morsel of bread, he immediately went out. And it was night.

Mini Movie

"Betrayal"

Sermon Dialog with Judas

"At the Crossroads of Betrayal"

Pastor Roben and John Solie

A Time of Silence for Reflection

Hymn of Response

to the tune **"Go to Dark Gethsemane"**

By James Montgomery

[\(130\) Go to Dark Gethsemane \(Instrumental\) - YouTube](#)

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, lived that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am his, and he is mine.

Oh, the height of Jesus' love! Higher than the heavens above,
Deeper than the depths of sea, lasting as eternity.
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought him not.

Chief of sinners though I be, Christ is All in all to me;
All my wants to him are known, all my sorrows are his own.
He sustains the hidden life

We Respond

Invitation to Offering

We have begun our Lenten journey to the Cross road. Let us give today as we deny ourselves and follow Christ's ways.

Please remember that while the church building may be closed, our resources are still used and bills need to be paid. Your faithful contributions support the ministry and outreach of this congregation and the wider church. Your financial support may be offered

- by check and mailed to St. John's UCC
- online at <http://JonestownUCC.org>.
- via Electronic Funds Transfer by contacting your bank or the church office.

Thank you for your generosity.

Doxology

(Celebration of Black History Month)

Performed by New Beginnings Fellowship Church

Prayer of Dedication

All: Here I am, Lord – body, heart and soul. Grant that with your love, I may be big enough to reach the world, and small enough to be at one with you. —Mother Teresa, 1910-1997.

Prayers of the People

Let us bring our prayers and petitions to God, who hears and answers the pleas of our hearts. We pray for our broken world. By your mighty power and the promise of Christ, send your peace to those in our world who are suffering in war, in persecution, in oppression, in terrible need. Make us agents of healing in this hurting world. In your mercy,
hear us, Lord.

We pray for this congregation and the church throughout the world. Give faithful shepherds, bold witnesses, caring helpers and wise leaders to your people. In your mercy,
hear us, Lord.

We pray for ourselves. Send your Spirit to empower us and walk with us as we face the trials and temptations of this life. When we are tempted to turn away from the Savior, when the choices at the crossroads of our faith are too difficult for us, strengthen our will and our willingness to follow the one who calls us. In your mercy,
hear us, Lord.

We pray for the sick, the suffering, the grieving, the lonely, especially those we name in our hearts. Be with them by the power of your presence. Heal, help and comfort them according to your will.... In your mercy,
hear us, Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors; Lead us not into temptation But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the and the power and the glory forever.

HOLY COMMUNION

Words of Institution
Words of Consecration
Words of Invitation
Breaking and Receiving Bread and Wine

We Go to Serve

Closing Hymn
“

“Take My Life”

By Shout Praises Kids

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in endless praise.
Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use ev'ry power as thou shalt choose.
Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Benediction

Pastor: Now may the forgiving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal, encompassing love of God and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

All: We go to serve all of God's people by sharing the love of Christ and ministering to our community.

Postlude

“Trading My Sorrows”

By Darrell Evans

CREDITS

Feasting on the Word@WorshipCompanionLiturgies for Year B Volume 1

The Doxology | New Beginnings Christian Fellowship Psalmist Choir

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