Service of Light

Worship Leader - normal type. **Congregational responses - bold type**

\*Indicates all who are able are invited to stand

\*Call to Worship**🕆**

God is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

**God is the strength of my life: whom shall I dread?**

I am seeking your presence, O God.

**Do not abandon me to my foes.**

**There are people who hate me;**

**there are things that control me;**

**there are places that frighten me.**

Trust in God. Stand fast and have courage.

**Help us this night not to fall away. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and give us the courage to withstand.**

Choral Introit

\*Prayer at the Lighting of the Candles**🕆**

O Gracious Light, Pure brightness of the eternal Creator in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and Blessed!

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,**

**and our eyes behold your vesper light,**

**we sing your praises, Holy God, One in Trinity.**

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Christ of God,

O Giver of Life,

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Hymn “Go to Dark Gethsemane” v. 1-3 #196

Lighting the Candles

After the table candles are lit, you are invited to come forward, to take a candle and light it off of one of the table candles.

Service of Shadows

As you listen to the readings to follow, you are invited to extinguish their candle at some point when a reading particularly strikes them – or when all the readings are finished.

***I***

Shadow of Betrayal

Matthew 26:20-25

Extinguishing of the First Candle

Anthem “In the Garden”

***II***

Shadow of Agony of Spirit and Arrest

Matthew 26:36-50

Extinguishing of the Second Candle

Hymn “Were You There” v.1 #198

***III***

Shadow of Denial

Matthew 26:69-75

Extinguishing of the Third Candle

Prayer of Confession and Assurance**🕆**

Let us pray:

**Spirit of Christ, be with us now.**

**We may try to avoid this hour of trouble; we may not stay awake.**

**Help us to face our fear of the cross on which you died.**

**Help us face the crosses we must carry to honor your life.**

Silence for Personal Confession**🕆**

Let us continue:

**We are your disciples.**

**And we too follow you with confusion and fear.**

**Strengthen us, we pray,**

**so that we may walk through life into death without fear;**

**through the night into eternal light. Amen**

***IV***

Shadow of Accusation

Matthew 27:11-14, 20-29

Extinguishing of the Fourth Candle

Hymn “Were You There” v.2 #198

***V***

Shadow of Crucifixion and Humiliation

Matthew 27:31-43

Extinguishing of the Fifth Candle

***VI***

Shadow of Death

Matthew 27:45-54

Extinguishing of the Sixth Candle

*3 loud knocks come from the back of the sanctuary to represent the death of Jesus*

***VII***

Shadow of Burial

Matthew 27:57-60

Extinguishing of the Seventh Candle

Hymn “Were You There” v.3 #198

The Promise

 John 14:15-17

You are invited to leave into the shadows of the night.

*There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning resurrection. Keep the faith in vigil through Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Please depart in silence.*

Easter Sunday Sunrise April 20, 6am Sunrise Park

Easter Morning Breakfast April 20, 7-9:30am Fellowship Hall

Easter Sunday Service April 20, 10am Sanctuary

**🕆Light Into Darkness: A Service for Maundy Thursday** was written by the Rev. Dr. David Bahr, pastor of Park Hill Congregational United Church of Christ in Denver, Colorado.



Copyright 2010 Local Church Ministries, Congregational Vitality and Discipleship Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.