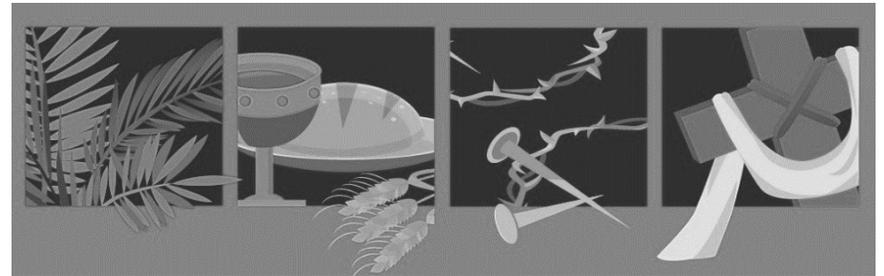


## *Readings for Keeping Vigil*

*during the*

## *Gethsemane Watch*



*"To be on a vigil is to be wakeful for a purpose. To the ancient Romans, that could be to stand guard, spy on the activities of a possible enemy, or prepare for a holy occasion. Originally, the desire to take part in the holy occasion is so strong that you can't wait for it to happen, which means you're so full of determination that waiting and getting ready is all you can do, to the neglect of sleep or food. You don't want to miss a second of it, you want to be there even for the preludes or the first sunbeams...For some people, participating for an hour at a vigil is a daunting task... While it may be a challenge, it can be a wonder-filled, grace-filled blessing.*

*"The Gethsemane watch presents us with a superb opportunity to teach faithfulness in prayer and discipleship. "Could you not keep awake one hour?" were the words of Jesus in reproach to his hapless followers in the first Gethsemane. Ever since, his disciples of subsequent generations have attempted to do better, and in some small way to make up what was lacking in the first bunch."*

*- Sharon Ely Pearson -*

## Read and Meditate on any of the following Psalms:

### For Maundy Thursday Evening

1, 3, 4, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 23, 25, 26, 33, 40, 41, 42, 52, 56, 57, 58, 60, 70, 75, 76, 78, 82, 83, 85, 87, 101, 104, 135, 137, 142, 143

### For the Morning Hours of Good Friday

5, 6, 36, 41, 48, 49, 62, 65, 71, 74, 99, 100, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 141, 149 MID-DAY; 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131

### For the Afternoon and Evening of Good Friday

2, 4, 9, 17, 20, 22, 43, 44, 45, 46, 66, 89, 91, 94, 95, 96, 97, 108, 134, 136

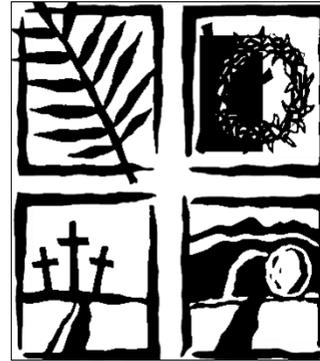
## Read and Meditate on Luke's Recording of the Passion Story

Luke 22:39 through Luke 23:56  
(you don't have to read the whole narrative)

Some questions to wonder about:



Which person do you most identify with and why?  
Who do you least understand? Why do you think that is?  
What part of this narrative moves you the most?  
Why?  
What part of the story is hardest for you? Why?



## Prayer For Keeping Vigil

Almighty God, out of chaos you called into being the stars and gave them orbits, out of darkness you called the light, out of the wilderness you brought the wandering into a land of promise. Call forth now from our timid and confused hearts the light and purpose that will make us servants of peace,

lovers of justice, and workers for a community that fulfills the promise that all may lie down unafraid of neighbor, war or hunger.

O God, before you all nations are accountable.

Do not let us pray for peace without asking us to risk the path of trust.

Do not let us pray for justice without teaching us that justice is more than dividing up what we already have.

Do not let us pray for the oppressed without calling us to share in the responsibility of their oppression.

Almighty God, we desire your rules in our lives and in our nation. Keep that desire alive in us and grant us the courage to let that love of your kingdom lead us, even as it led Jesus to his death and resurrection. In his name we pray. Amen.

- Thomas O Russell -

***You are invited to keep vigil at home immediately following our Maundy Thursday worship; at any time or any location of your choosing over the next 24 hours; or within the First Congregational Church Sanctuary from 9am-noon on Good Friday. A pastor will be available for individual prayer while the Sanctuary is open.***