

**First Mennonite Church, Hillsboro, Kansas
Good Friday 2018**

PRAYER

We remember the suffering of our Lord.
We remember he suffered in body and in spirit.

(silent prayer)

We present ourselves to you, O God.

We long to glorify you.

We want to forgive our enemies, and bless those we meet,

We confess our sin and shortfall before you.

We are humbly ready to allow the work of your Spirit.

Clear our hearts of pride, bitterness, and hatred.

(silent prayer)

We welcome your Eternal Presence into our daily life.

We welcome you with gladness and with hope for your peace.

(silent prayer)

We remember the suffering of our Lord.
We remember he suffered in body and in spirit.

We want Jesus to go before us
as we live our days
in the tragic suffering of our world.

Amen.

adapted from a prayer by Samuel Miller's, Prayers for Daily Use

(over)

MEDITATIVE READING

from **Stages on the Way**, Iona Community

He will walk
a little in front of us
towards Jerusalem.

He will not be scared
though we are apprehensive.

If we try to discourage him,
he will recognize the Devil in our voice,
and he will tell us as much
in no uncertain terms.

Then he will go on again,
in faith,
towards Jerusalem.

(quiet reflection)

He will walk
a little in front of us
into controversy.
He will not be scared
Though we are apprehensive.

He will argue with the intelligent,
stop in their tracks the self-assured,
touch the diseased,
upset bank balances
by his outlandish behavior in the sanctuary,
and weep in public.

Then he will go on again,
in faith,
towards Jerusalem.

(quiet reflection)

He will walk
a little in front of us
into Gethsemane.

He will not be scared,
though we are apprehensive.

He will sweat blood and ask God if there is
another way.
And when God says no,
he will take the traitor's kiss,
the soldier's spit, the bile and venom from the
princes of religion.

Then he will go on again,
in faith,

towards the cross.

(quiet reflection)

He will walk
a little in front of us
towards Calvary.

He will not be scared,
no,
he will not be scared.

He will feel the pain
of wood and nails;
but more than this
he will feel the weight
of all the evil,
all the malice
all the pettiness
all the sin of the world
heaped upon his shoulders.

He will not throw off that weight,
though he could.

He will not give back evil for evil,
return malice for malice,
take revenge on the petty-minded,
or spew out hate
on all who have despised or rejected him.

He will not give back the sin of the world.
He will take it away . . .
into death, into hell,
so that he can lead us into heaven.

Then he will go on again,
in faith,
towards the resurrection.

(quiet reflection)

He will walk
a little behind us
through the graveyard,

He will wait
until we realize that he has died
and admit our complicity in his life's ending.

Then he will come up behind us,
and say our name,
so that we can say his,
forever.