

A SHORTER EVENING LITURGY FOR HOLY WEEK

Opening Meditation

Leader 1 When the lights are on and the house is full,
 And the laughter is easy,
 And all is well –
Cantor 1 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Leader 1 When the lights are low and the house is still,
 And the talk is intense
 And the air full of wondering –
Cantor 1 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Leader 1 When the lights are out and the house is sad,
 And the voice is troubled,
 And nothing seems right –
Cantor 1 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Leader 1 And tonight, always tonight,
 As if there were no other people, no other house, no other door –
Cantor 1 Behold, I stand at the door and knock.

Leader 1 Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
 Stay with us for day is ending.
 Bring to our house your poverty
Cantor 2 For then we shall be rich.

Leader 1 Bring to our house your pain.
Cantor 2 That sharing it, we may also share your joy.

Leader 1 Bring to our house your understanding of us
Cantor 2 That we may be free to learn more of you.

Leader 1 Bring to our house all those who hurry or hobble behind you
Cantor 2 That we may meet you as saviour of all.

Leader 1 Bring to our house your Holy Spirit
Cantor 2 That this may be a cradle of your love.

Leader 1 With friend, with stranger,
 With neighbour and the well-known ones,
 Be among us tonight
**ALL FOR THE DOORS OF OUR HOUSE ARE OPEN,
 AND THE DOORS OF OUR HEARTS WE LEAVE AJAR. AMEN.**

God's Word to us

Readings and talk

Prayer for Others

Leader 2 Let us hold before God in confidence:

The ones who laugh when we are funny,
And the ones who make us smile at ourselves;

The ones for whom we weep,
And the ones who in joy or sorrow weep for us;

The ones who worry that we may be lonely,
And the ones that ensure that that does not happen;

The ones who feed our minds and our bodies,
And the ones with whom we share faith and break bread;

The ones who reveal in themselves what is hidden,
And the ones who treat as precious all we confide in them;

The ones, who tonight, we want to pray for,
And the ones who, unasked, tonight will pray for us.

And let us praise God

For the one from whom we are sent,
The one to whom we are summoned
Whose image we are,
Whose flesh we share,
Whose love is all.

ALL AMEN.

Closing Responses

Leader 1 On our hearts and our houses,

ALL THE BLESSING OF GOD.

Leader 1 In our coming and going,

ALL THE PEACE OF GOD.

Leader1 In our life and believing,

ALL THE LOVE OF GOD.

Leader 1 At our end and new beginning

ALL THE ARMS OF GOD TO WELCOME US AND BRING US HOME. AMEN.

Holy Week 2021, St Thomas Exeter

adapted from the Iona Community