

Evening Prayer Service
April 5, 2017
St. Martin UCC

“The Feeling Begins”

SCRIPTURE

II Corinthians 4:6-10

“It is the God who said, ‘Let light shine out of the darkness,’ who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER FOR LIGHT

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR LENT

Psalm 139:10-11

If I say, ‘Surely darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,’ darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

“Before Night Falls”

ART PRAYER

Sieger Köder’s “The Last Supper”

“Passion”

CLOSING SONG

“With This Love”

BLESSING

May the Lord Jesus stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; may Christ be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know the One revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

All of this evening’s music is from Peter Gabriel’s *Passion*, the music for the film *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

ART PRAYER

Center down. Get comfortable yet attentive, both feet on the ground, back straight. Pay attention to your breath, your breathing in and breathing out. If thoughts or feelings come into play, let them go by paying attention to your breath, its feel and sound and rhythm. When the music begins, open your eyes and focus on the painting before you:

1. Simply savor it. Take the painting in, its colors, images, vantage point. Allow it to wash over you.
2. Trust that God wants to “hear” from you. What questions, affirmations or observations are being triggered for you? Share these silently (or by journaling) with Christ. For example, “Jesus, when I look at this painting, I am reminded . . .” Or, “It startles me, Jesus, to see . . .” Or, “Christ, I never before realized . . .”
3. Trust that God wants to be heard by you. Ask, in your own way, for some word of reassurance or challenge, some sense of direction or action to take with you from this place. If something comes, plant it in your heart.
4. Get quiet again. Let go and simply savor God’s Presence.

OUR ARTIST

The German priest painter Sieger Köder died in Ellwangen, Germany, on February 9, 2015, shortly after his 90th birthday. Trained as a silversmith and painter, Köder was a prisoner of war during World War II and became an art teacher before studying theology in Tübingen and being ordained a priest. He combined his vocation as a parish priest with his work as an artist, producing numerous paintings, altarpieces and stained glass windows for churches within and outside Germany. He continued painting long into his retirement.

His work shows the artistic influence of Chagall and a distinctive theological and spiritual interpretation of biblical and abstract themes. His wartime experiences also profoundly influenced his depictions of the Passion of Christ and human suffering and evil. This can be seen particularly in his Stations of the Cross and the Misere, or Hunger cloth. Most famously he painted a fresco of the Last Supper for the German College in Rome, which included, sitting at the table of the Eucharist, a Jew, a beggar and a prostitute.

In later life Köder’s work became world famous and he won many awards, including, in 1985, the honorary title of Monsignor and the Order of Merit from Pope John Paul II. He himself was a modest man and in a newspaper interview once said, “People come to Ellwangen asking to see the painter. If they’re that interested in the painter, then they haven’t understood the paintings.” His works have inspired countless reproductions, books of meditations, posters, and a fully illustrated Bible.