

Good Friday Service Segment

Please use the below script, or adapt for your context. Depending on how you are doing the planting, you may want to do this part of the service outside.

Introduction

On a day when we remember Jesus being sealed in a tomb, only to reemerge with new life after three days, All We Can have invited us to seal some seeds in the earth and trust that they too will emerge with new life in a few months' time.

For a long time, planting potatoes on Good Friday was an established Christian tradition. Some say this was because people felt that because potatoes are not mentioned in the Bible, they had to be planted on a holy day to make them acceptable to eat. Others suggest it is because people thought planting on a holy day meant the crop had a greater chance of success. Another possibility is that Good Friday was the first day off many people had since Christmas, and so it was the first chance they had to tend to their gardens.

Those reasons probably do not apply to us. But this can still be a valuable tradition for us today, as we remind ourselves that what is buried in the ground can bring forth new life.

We will be able to harvest these potatoes in time for our Harvest service later in the year. If we take good care of this crop, then we might be able to eat something together that we grew together as a church.

Many of All We Can's partners around the world also help their communities with agriculture and will be planting at this time of year. So this is also a way for us to join in solidarity with them now, as well as when we hear stories from All We Can's work at harvest time.



Reading

Isaiah 53:1-5 (the lectionary reading is 52:13-53:12 if you want to do the whole thing)

Like this plant before us, Jesus had no form or majesty that we should desire him. Nothing about the outward appearance of these seed potatoes suggests they can bounce back and produce something delicious for us to enjoy. But Jesus shows us that situations that seem hopeless on the surface, can be opportunities for his resurrection life to break through.

A Liturgy for Planting

You may want to place your seed potatoes in the soil as you say this liturgy, or at the end.

Inform those gathered that the call-and-response is as follows:

From Friday's soil, **bring Sunday's life**

As we commit these seeds to the earth, we remind ourselves of the sacrifice you made for us. That though you were without sin, you not only descended to the dirt of our world to be among us, but descended even to death itself. Lord, we are humbled by the depth of your love for us, and the depth of your actions to reach us with it.

From Friday's soil, **bring Sunday's life**

Thank you, Lord, through your death on the cross for laying bare the reality of evil for all to see, for exposing the consequences of our collective brokenness. Through placing our fingers in this soil, may we be reminded of the reality of the messiness and sin of the world.

From Friday's soil, **bring Sunday's life**



Help us, Lord, to sit in the discomfort of waiting. As we plant these seeds, we know we cannot fast-forward to the harvest, just as the people of Good Friday could not fast-forward to Easter Sunday. May we be people who patiently, but expectantly, await signs of the coming Kingdom.

From Friday's soil, **bring Sunday's life**

Lord Jesus, may we be people who live in light of the events we celebrate at Easter. And may these seeds and the plants they produce be a sign and reminder to us of the new life you poured out for us on the cross.

From Friday's soil, **bring Sunday's life**

Amen.

