

The Passion

Excerpt from "Garden Scene" – 2/23/22

Jesus, Peter, John, James, move apart from the rest.

6.aMEMORY:

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane. He brought with Him Peter, James and John and became distressed:

6.bJESUS:

My soul is sorrowful, even unto death. Remain with me, and keep watch that you do not enter into temptation.

Jesus moves to center, kneels, praying.

6.cAPOSTLES:

When he led me up the hill before, could I believe my sight?
Transfigured from His earthly hue, wrapped in boundless light.
But then in Gethsemane he stood eclipsed—was that truly the same man?
With his face sunk in the dirt, with his trembling hands?

6.d JOHN:

Who could abide such agony?
His sweat, I saw, was blood.
My eyes, which once were set ablaze
In witness to his gloried state, closed shut at his appeals for mercy....
How could this be real?

6.e MAGDALENE:

He kneeled, outpouring from his brow
The soak of sin, like some whirlwind had opened up
Among those trees, their fruits his own now, falling...

6.f SPIRIT:

I watch for a sign in the quiet
Holding fast to the chains--
This moon shines a question on my face tonight
Swallow the sword and the pain—
And leaves bend toward my tired, tired eyes
Reminding me
And leaves bend toward my tired, tired eyes
Asking if I care to pray
In evening's veil I'm covered
Waiting for what must unfold
Soft the hillside delivers a breeze

Do I taste the thorn or the rose?

CHORUS:

Shall I, shall we

Accept this tenderness?

Are we, am I

Am I Broken by your kiss?

6.g MEMORY:

Jesus returned to the disciples and found them sleeping:

Jesus stops praying, moves toward Peter, James, and John.

6.h JESUS:

So you could not stay awake with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. For willing is the spirit, but weak is the flesh.

Jesus, Spirit move apart again.

6.i APOSTLES:

On the hill I heard a voice loud and clear,

“This is my Son”

Message of wonder,

Word fulfilled,

sign of the promised one.

But then the garden grew in me, a doubt I could not speak.

The only sound that I could hear was a lullaby of grief.

6.j CHORUS:

We have abandoned him.

We have abandoned him.

I watch for a sign

And I am broken

And He's alone

And We abandon

They abandoned us,

We abandoned them.

Jesus stands.

6.k JESUS

The hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going.

6.l MEMORY:

While He was talking, Judas arrived with a company of soldiers dispatched by the high priests:

Judas steps forward from Chorus. Memory escorts Judas toward Jesus.

6.m JUDAS:

The one that I embrace,
The one who draws me into Him,
He is the one that I will kiss.
The one we will arrest.

6.n MEMORY:

Judas approached Jesus, embracing Him:

6.o JUDAS:

Hail, Rabbi.

Judas and Jesus embrace. The memory is interrupted by Apostles commentary, which spirals out of control.

6.p JOHN:

They came upon us suddenly--
There was hardly time to think
Held him close, and called him "friend"
That traitor...and we let him in!

APOSTLES:

Hardly time to think--
 He called him "friend"
 A traitor, and we let him in

6.q JOHN:

That kiss, the first bruise on His cheek---

6.r PETER:

I would not let them harm our Lord!
Where were his angels?
I had no option but the sword--
I struck!

CHORUS:

Where were his angels?
 Don't you touch him!
 No!

The memory of the struck ear, like a high pitched ringing sound, stops them. Apostles disperse, Jesus, Memory move across stage. Peter stays center.