

Migraine Prayer

I have wanted to experiment with drums in worship for some time. Not just drumming along to songs which don't need drums. Rather, a creative, pulsing, living use of rhythm in our speech, our reading, our praying.

Good Friday may seem an odd time to start playing with the congregation's sensibilities, but this year the sense of the drumbeat accompanying Jesus up the hill to Golgotha was inescapable. The drumbeat which, in the words of "There's a Light Upon the Mountains" is the heartbeat of his love. The heartbeat which gradually fades, on the cross, into the deafening silence with which God answers Jesus' cry of desolation. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

A simple beat at around 40bpm seems to work, but use whatever rhythm suits your context

Pounding	The betrayer
Thumping	The betrayer
Pulsing	
Children squabbling	<i>Drumbeat (8 beats)</i>
Shouting	
Arguing	<i>Echoing the previous stanza</i>
"I'm in charge,"	The betrayer
"No, I'm in charge,"	The betrayer
"No, I'm in charge,"	The betrayer
Pounding	The drums
Thumping	The drums
Pulsing	The drums
Children squabbling	
Shouting	Beating a path
Arguing	From prayer to prison
"I'm in charge,"	From prison to palace
"No, I'm in charge,"	From palace to prison
"No, I'm in charge,"	To prison
	To prison
MUM!!!!	To prison
<i>Drumbeat (8 beats)</i>	Beating a path
	To the Hill of the Skull
The busyness of Passover	Beating a path
Roasted lamb	To the place of doom
Baked bread	Beating a path
Wine poured	To the end of all hope
Bickering as they dunk	Beating
Dunking as they bicker	Beating
Wine poured	Beating
Wine spilled	
	<i>Drumbeat (8 beats)</i>
Table thumped	
Fingers pointed	Beating
The betrayer	Beating

Beating

Heart
Beating

Fists
Beating

Words
Beating

Heart
Beating
Heart
Pounding

Heart
Racing
Pulsing
Throbbing

Pressure
Sweats

Fear
Panic

Fear
Paralysis

Feet dragging

Fear
Pounding

Thumping
Screaming

Panting
Screaming

Racing
Screaming

No more

No more

No more

Drumbeat (8 beats) then silence

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

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