

*Community Good Friday Service*  
*April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015*

*Early on in the Christian movement, Jesus' followers remembered Jesus' execution and the places where various paths occurred, recounting the details. By the Middle Ages, pilgrimages to Jerusalem for Holy Week were like the Muslim Haj – a once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage. When people couldn't go to Jerusalem to walk the via Dolorosa with Christ, the ritual of the stations of the cross was born so that people could journey with Christ spiritually in their own parish devotion.*

*We're going to participate in the ancient tradition of remembering Christ's death by doing an ecumenical version. But be forewarned: this worship is not a comfortable journey. For some, the stations of the cross can be an intense spiritual journey where our souls are laid bare before God. For others, we just want it to end because it's too overwhelming so we check out at various places. However you respond wherever you respond is ok. You're not spiritually defective regardless of how this strikes you. So knowing that no one here will judge, just enter into the experience open to the Lord's presence.*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, let us walk with Christ along the way of his cross.

People: **Where you go, we will follow, Lord.**

**Go To Dark Gethsemane**

UMH #290 (vs. 1)

**FIRST STATION:** *Dr. Mark Jordon*

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane Matthew 26:36-41

**Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to feel sorrow and distress. Then he said to them, "My soul is sorrowful even to death. Remain here and keep watch with me." He advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup**

**pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will." When he returned to his disciples he found them asleep. He said to Peter, "So you could not keep watch with me for one hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider- Where are we asleep when God-with-us is sorrowful unto death?

**Response**

One: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All: Through your faithfulness, you have redeemed the world.**

**Anthem**

*Ave Verum Corpus*

*Front Royal United Methodist Church Youth Choir*

**SECOND STATION:** *Rev. Robert Jones*

Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested

Mark 14:43-46

**While Jesus was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived, accompanied by a crowd with swords and clubs, who had come from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. His betrayer had arranged a signal with them, saying, "The man I shall kiss is the one; arrest him and lead him away securely." He came and immediately went over to him and said, "Rabbi." And he kissed him. At this they laid hands on him and arrested him.**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider: Where in our own lives do we betray the Lord with our kisses?

**Response**

One: Through your faithfulness, O Christ, you have redeemed the world.

**All: We adore you. We bless you.**

**Go to Dark Gethsemane**

UMH #290 (vs. 2)

**THIRD STATION:** *Rev. Mary Marshall*

Jesus is Condemned by the Religious Council Luke 22:66-71

**When day came the council of elders of the people met, both chief priests and scribes, and they brought him before their Sanhedrin. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us," but he replied to them, "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question, you will not respond. But from this time on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." The all asked, "Are you then the Son of God?" He replied to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further need have we for testimony? We have heard it from his own mouth."**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider: How have we participated in religious groups that condemn God-with-us?

**Response**

One: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All: Through your faithfulness, you have redeemed the world.**

***Ah, Holy Jesus How Hast Thou Offended*** UMH #289 (vs. 1)

**FOURTH STATION:** *Rev. Franklin Roberts*

Jesus is Denied by Peter Matthew 26:69-75

**Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maids came over to him and said, "You too were with Jesus the Galilean." But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I do not know what you are talking about!" As he went out to the gate, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus the Nazorean." Again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." A little later the bystanders came over and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; even your speech gives you away." At that he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know the man!" And immediately a cock crowed.**

**Then Peter remembered the word that Jesus had spoken: "Before the cock crows you will deny me three times." He went out and began to weep bitterly.**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider: In what ways do I deny Christ?

**Response**

One: Through your faithfulness, O Christ, you have redeemed the world.

**All: We adore you. We bless you.**

***Ah, Holy Jesus How Hast Thou Offended*** UMH #289 (vs. 2)

**FIFTH STATION:** *Rev. Al Woods*

Jesus is Judged by Pontius Pilate Mark 15:1-5, 15

**The Sanhedrin police bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate questioned him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He said to him in reply, "You say so." The chief priests accused him of many things. Again Pilate questioned him, "Have you no answer? See how many things they accuse you of." Jesus gave him no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed. Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas. And they handed Jesus over to be crucified.**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider: Where has our desire to appease others hurt Christ's body?

**Response**

One: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All: Through your faithfulness, you have redeemed the world.**

**Anthem** *He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word*  
*Front Royal United Methodist Church Men's Ensemble*

**SIXTH STATION:** *Rev. Deborah Rutter*

Jesus is Scourged and Mocked John 19:1-3

**Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged. And the**

**soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on his head, and clothed him in a purple cloak, and they came to him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck him repeatedly.**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider: How do we participate in groups that beat up the Christ in others?

**Response**

One: Through your faithfulness, O Christ, you have redeemed the world.

**All: We adore you. We bless you.**

***O Sacred Head Now Wounded***

UMH #286 (vs. 1)

**SEVENTH STATION:** *Rev. Thomas Rhyne*

Jesus Condemned by Crowd to Bear Cross John 19:6, 15-17

**When the chief priests and the guards saw Jesus they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him. I find no guilt in him." They cried out, "Take him away, take him away! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your king?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus . . . out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha.**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider where in the world crowds still call for crucifixions of innocents.

**Response**

One: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All: Through your faithfulness, you have redeemed the world.**

**Anthem**

*When Jesus Wept*

Billings

*Front Royal Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir*

**EIGHTH STATION:** *Dr. Mark Jordon*

Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene

Mark 15:21

**The Roman police pressed into service a passer-by, Simon, a Cyrenian, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross.**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider the times you were forced into carrying Christ's cross. Or consider: where have we forced others to carry the cross of Christ?

**Response**

One: Through your faithfulness, O Christ, you have redeemed the world.

**All: We adore you. We bless you.**

***O Sacred Head Now Wounded***

UMH #286 (vs. 2)

**NINTH STATION:** *Rev. Robert Jones*

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

Luke 23:27-31

**A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider: Jesus says his death occurs in a green time. What might life look like when the time is dry, then?

**Response**

One: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All: Through your faithfulness, you have redeemed the world.**

**Jesus Remember Me**

UMH #488

**TENTH STATION:** *Rev. Mary Marshall*

Jesus Is Crucified

Luke 23:33-34

**When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider: While we were in the act of crucifying and mocking him, Christ begged for our forgiveness.

**Response**

One: Through your faithfulness, O Christ, you have redeemed the world.

**All: We adore you. We bless you.**

**Anthem**

*And No Bird Sang*

Wagner

*Front Royal United Methodist Church Sanctuary Choir*

*Mary Frances Bukva, soloist*

**ELEVENTH STATION:** *Rev. Franklin Roberts*

Jesus Promises His Kingdom

Luke 23:39-43

**Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider: How do we want Jesus to remember us from his sovereign throne?

**Response**

One: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All: Through your faithfulness, you have redeemed the world.**

**Anthem**

*Lay His Body Down*

Chopin

*First Baptist Church Adult Choir*

**TWELFTH STATION:** *Rev. Al Woods*

Jesus Speaks to Mother and Beloved Disciple John 19:25-27

**Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.**

**Silent Reflection**

Consider the kind of family Christ wants us to be.

**Response**

One: Through your faithfulness, O Christ, you have redeemed the world.

**All: We adore you. We bless you.**

**Ubi Caritas/Where There is Charity**

*Ubi caritas et amor*

*Ubi caritas Deus ibi est*

**THIRTEENTH STATION:** *Rev. Deborah Rutter*

Jesus Dies on the Cross

Luke 23:44-46

**It was now about noon and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon because of an eclipse of the sun. Then the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit"; and when he had said this he breathed his last.**

## Silent Reflection

### Response

One: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**All: Through your faithfulness, you have redeemed the world.**

### FOURTEENTH STATION: *Rev. Thomas Rhyne*

Jesus is Placed in the Tomb Matthew 27:57-60

**When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be handed over. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen and laid it in his new tomb that he had hewn in the rock. Then he rolled a huge stone across the entrance to the tomb and departed.**

## Silent Reflection

### Prayer

**Lord Jesus Christ, who stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who live in tombs of darkness to knowledge and love of your blessed freedom won for us through Jesus Christ to whom be all honor and glory and dominion now and forevermore. Amen.**

***O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*** UMH #286 (vs. 3)

**Commission** Matthew 26:41, Joel 2:14

Watch and pray. Who knows but that God may yet relent and leave a blessing behind?

## Depart in Silence