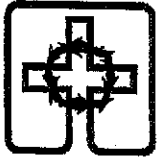


Pastor Eric Burtness
Ministers: All Members
Music: Joy Leal Conradt

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GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 29, 2024
Noon & 7:00 p.m. services

THE WAY OF THE CROSS **A SERVICE OF PRAYER &** **CONTEMPLATION**

Introduction

This service is designed to be one of contemplation and self-examination. It is meant to be quiet and reflective. Please use this time to examine your life and open up to your Lord, the Savior who gave His life for you.

During the times of contemplation, quiet music will be sung. Use this time for meditation and self-examination. As you are moved, write a petition of confession, a special prayer request, or whatever is on your heart on the bulletin prayer insert. Fold it, and come forward after the 9th Station and nail it to the cross. The idea is simple - you are bringing these petitions and prayers directly to our Lord and nailing them to His cross.

*Be assured that **no one** will read these petitions or prayers. They will be collected and burned as a reminder of how the cross of Jesus removed our sins by His death.*

May this simple service be a blessing to us as we give thanks to a God who loved us enough to die for us.

1ST STATION

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH

Leader: Before Pilate, Jesus stood, unbowed, unbroken, unafraid.
“Are you King?” he cried.
“I am,” the reply.
“We have no king but Caesar. Crucify Him. Crucify.”
Then, before Jesus, Pilate stood,
bowed, broken and afraid.
He handed him over first to be whipped
and then to be crucified.

All: **Jesus, our brother,**
we stand in silence as you are condemned by Pilate.
Standing in silence is not new to us.
We have stood in silence
- as you went hungry by our table,
- as you were orphaned in our wars,
- as you walked powerless in our world,
we always stand in silence.
For we like Pilate, are bowed, broken, and afraid.
Break the chains of this silence which lies so heavily
on our lives.
Give us the courage to speak in your behalf. Amen.

HYMN: “GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE”

- 1. Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.**
- 2. Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.**

2ND STATION

JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

Leader: Large and heavy, edges rough, weight considerable,
the cross had stood, waiting the unfortunate,
the criminal, the victim of the court.
Manfully, silently, Jesus shouldered it.
The march began,
- to the hill,
- to Golgotha.
He struggled on, painfully, quietly, alone.

All: **Jesus, our brother,
we watch you bear your cross
and do not understand.
We are afraid of suffering.
Our hearts are hardened.
Everyone tells us that suffering is evil
and must be avoided at every cost.
We flee sickness, sorrow and pain.
Your carrying your cross
says something different
about suffering.
We are not sure just what it is.
Help us to follow you
even when we do not understand**

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

3RD STATION

JESUS FALLS THE FIRST TIME

Leader: Here, here on Calvary's way, Jesus falls the first
time. Not yet exhausted, still alert to every pain,
still quickened by the lash. Tripped on a stone,
perhaps. Or stunned by a soldier's blow. Jesus
struggles, He stands, He moves along.

All: **Jesus, our brother,
You have fallen with your cross.
We wonder if you have not fallen again today.
Everywhere we see signs of weakness in our
church, in our nation, in our world.
We see dissension, controversy, turmoil.
We are scandalized. We do not understand.
Our faith begins to falter.
Help us to find you hidden in our weakness.
Help us to find you beneath the cross.**

HYMN: "BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS"

- 1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land,
A home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.**
- 2. Upon the cross of Jesus, My eye at times can see
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me.
And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess;
The wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.**
- 3. I take, O cross your shadow for my abiding place;
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.**

4TH STATION

JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Leader: Mary, mothering her son in his last moments -
Unable to touch, save with saddened eyes.
Jesus, body torn, heart broken, eyes on his mother,
Comforted and comforting.
No word is spoken. None is needed.
Jesus meets his mother.

All: **Jesus, our brother,
we are moved by this meeting.
To watch the pain of those we love is harder
than to bear our own.
You and your mother, Mary,
watch each other suffering.
We, too, must stand and watch the sufferings
of our dear ones; the heartaches, sickness
and grief of those we love,
and we must let them watch ours, too.
We join with Mary in this ministry
of loving watchfulness.**

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

5TH STATION

SIMON HELPS JESUS

Leader: Strong and stately Simon stood,
chance watcher of that
strange procession on its way to Calvary.
Proud and from the country, young and insecure.
"Carry the cross," they said,
words empowered by whips
and lances and numbers. And he did.
He shouldered the cross.
And followed behind Jesus.

All: **Jesus, our brother, we have to admire Simon.
He took up your cross and followed you.
He had so little doubt, so little hesitation.
We see you suffering.
- in all around us,
- in the powerful,
- in the powerless,
- in the misunderstood.
We are so hesitant to come to your aid.
We find so many excuses. We remain aloof.
Grant us the wisdom and the courage to help
the least of your sisters and brothers
and so help you.**

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

6TH STATION

JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME

Leader: Tired now, beaten , bruised, body-broken,
Jesus falls a second time.
Even without the cross,
- the shoulders ache,
- the head drips blood,
- the knees buckle,
Jesus falls again.
A whip is lashed, a hard word is spoken,
a fist, a lance's blunted end.
Jesus rises, moves on again.

All: **Jesus, our brother,
you must have been discouraged
by your second fall. We, too, know
discouragement. Our best efforts end in failure.
Those we love, do not seem to love us.
Regardless of our efforts, life does not bring
peace. What shall we do?
We will imitate your example and try again,
even in the face of futility.**

HYMN: **"WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS"**

1. **When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.**
2. **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.**

7TH STATION

JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

Leader: Old, worn women leaning on each other,
young, vital women, children at the knees,
babies at the breast,
women of Jerusalem, weeping.
- see Jesus struggle on.
- see the terror of his eyes.
- see the knotting of his body.
- women of Jerusalem, weeping.
And yet, he speaks, not they.
"Weep not for me, but for you and
for your children."

All: **Jesus, our brother,
in the midst of your sufferings
you had compassion for others and their pain.
We are often so self-centered.
We do not see the sufferings of others.
We want pity, kindness and understanding.
We are willing to give so little in return.
Help us forget ourselves.
Awaken us to the pain in the lives of others.**

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

8TH STATION

JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Leader: Bits of flesh and matted hair,
clots of hardened blood, grime from city's soil,
are torn from his quivering frame.
Stripped of his garments,
- naked before the crowd,
- common criminal
- outcast of the earth,
- folly of a foolish people.
Jesus, Son of God.

All: Jesus, our brother,
There is something fearful in thinking of you
stripped before the crowd.
Even the privacy of clothing is taken.
You have given up everything for us.
We give so little in return.
May we have the grace to give,
to give of what we have,
to help our brothers and sisters
suffering all around us.

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

9TH STATION

JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Leader: Hammer pounding, nails slicing through the flesh.
Hands clenched in ultimate agony.
Feet distended to conform to the rough contour
of the cross.
And then, the cross is hurled aloft,
banneted in the sky, flaunted in the face of God.
Jesus is crucified.

All: Jesus, our brother,
the pain of those nails was unjust.
Your hands which did such good,
Your feet which walked on errands of mercy,
are now punished.
You received little gratitude
for the good you did.
Why should we expect more for the good we do?
Help us give and ask nothing in return.

HYMN: "WERE YOU THERE"

2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?



*You are invited to come forward at this time
to nail petitions or prayers to the cross.*

10TH STATION

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Leader: Jesus dies.
Silence.
Birds cannot sing.
Children cannot cry.
The world is wordless.
It has lost the Word made flesh.
Only flesh remains.
Jesus dies upon the cross.

All: **Jesus, our brother,
you have the greatest love for us.
You gave your life for your friends.
What can we say in the face of it?
There is nothing to say.
We can only try to imitate you, by responding to
the brothers and sisters you have given to us to
love.**

HYMN: "O HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME"

1. Oh, how He loves you and me;
Oh how He loves you and me.
He gave His life – what more could He give?

Chorus: Oh, how He loves you; Oh, how He loves me;
Oh, how He loves you and me.

2. Jesus to Calv'ry did go,
His love for sinners to show.
What He did there – brought hope from despair.

Chorus

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11TH STATION

JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

Leader: Dead, lifeless, body without spirit,
heart exposed as if to reveal the emptiness.
Gone the smiling face, the impassioned gesture,
the vital step, the twisting agony.
Lifeless body,
- taken down,
- passive,
- supple,
Lifeless in a mother's arms.

All: **Jesus, our brother,
you are laid in the arms of your mother.
The agony is over.
But resurrection is not yet.
Your Father's plan requires patience.
So it is with us.
We reach moments when only patience
can carry us on.
We know that something better will come.
But when?
Help us to share your patience
and that of your mother.**

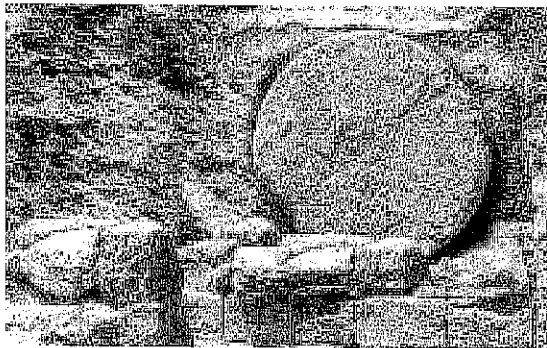
INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

12TH STATION

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Leader: It is over now.
Body buried, neatly tumbled.
Spices ready.
Clothes in proper place.
Little things are done.
No one can face the larger agonies,
- of loss,
- of loneliness,
- of anxiety,
Faithful friends busy with tiny things.
Jesus Christ is dead.

All: **Jesus, our brother, the end of life is so definite.
We fear it deep within. We do not want to die.
But we know we are your church, your body,
and you have called us to complete
your suffering and to die your death.
Help us to fulfill your work of love here on earth.**



HYMN: "THE OLD RUGGED CROSS"

1. **On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**CHORUS: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down.
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it someday for a crown.**

2. **O the old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary.**

CHORUS

3. **In the old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me.**

CHORUS

4. **To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;
Its shame and reproach gladly bear.
Then He'll call me someday to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.**

CHORUS

Text & Music: George Bennard

*Worshippers may remain for prayer,
either remaining at the pews or kneeling at the altar.
When you leave, please do so in silence.*