

Good Friday 2024 The Way of the Cross

Prelude Power of the Cross June Shuffett

Welcome Rev. Melissa Porter-Miller

***Call to Worship**

Pastor: Come, let us gather again in the shadow
of the Cross of Christ.

**People: We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence
of Love's ultimate sacrifice.**

Pastor: Who would have guessed that the height and depth,
the length and width of God's love might look like this:
a forsaken savior on a cross?

People: Certainly not us.

Not us, who are too often lost

amid the world's distractions and responsibilities.

Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.

Pastor: Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ
and commit ourselves to remember the price paid.

**People: He was hated and rejected by all people:
He was a man of sorrow and knew all about grief.**

Pastor: He carried our grief and our sorrows.

**People: But He was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the punishment that made us whole,**

All: And by His wounds we are healed.

*Hymn Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross UMH 301

***Opening Prayer**

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: My God, why have we forsaken You?

Why have we removed ourselves so far from You?

O God of mercy,

we confess that we are often timid followers of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dispel the shadows that imprison us,

and allow Your light to shine in our lives.

We pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

The Way of the Cross

Hymn What Wondrous Love Is This, v. 1 UMH 292

The First Reading Jesus Prays Alone Bruce Bartolain
Luke 22:39-44

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Extinguish First Candle

Hymn What Wondrous Love Is This, v. 2 UMH 292

The Second Reading Jesus is Arrested Pat Hobbs

Matthew 26:47-56

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Extinguish Second Candle

Hymn What Wondrous Love Is This, v. 3 UMH 292

The Third Reading**Sanhedrin Tries Jesus
Mark 14:61-64****Peggy Brown**

But he was silent and did not answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

Jesus said, “I am; and ‘you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power,’

and ‘coming with the clouds of heaven.’”

Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?” All of them condemned him as deserving death.

Extinguish Third Candle

Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus, v. 1

UMH 289

The Fourth Reading**Pilate Tries Jesus
John 18:33-37****Kathy Henry**

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Extinguish Fourth Candle

Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus, v. 2

UMH 289

The Fifth Reading**Pilate Sentences Jesus
Mark 15:6-15****Bruce Bartolain**

Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. Then he answered them, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” For he realized that it was out

of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. Pilate spoke to them again, “Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” They shouted back, “Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him!” So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Extinguish Fifth Candle

Hymn O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, v. 1 UMH 286

The Sixth Reading Jesus Wears Crown Pat Hobbs
John 19:5

So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

Extinguish Sixth Candle

Hymn O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, v. 2 UMH 286

The Seventh Reading Jesus Carries His Cross Peggy Brown
John 19:17

. . .and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Extinguish Seventh Candle

Hymn O Sacred Head, Now Wounded, v. 3 UMH 286

The Eighth Reading Simon Carries Cross Kathy Henry
Luke 23:26

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Extinguish Eight Candle

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley
Amy McCarthy and Sarah Chambers

The Ninth Reading**Jesus Speaks to the Women** **Brue Bartolain**
Luke 23:27-31

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Extinguish Ninth Candle

Hymn

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed, v. 1

UMH 294

The Tenth Reading**Jesus is Crucified** **Pat Hobbs**
Luke 23:33-34

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

Extinguish Tenth Candle

Special Music

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed, v. 2
Robert Shuffett, Sarah Chambers, Karen Ingle, Amy McCarthy**The Eleventh Reading** **Criminals Speak to Jesus**
Luke 23:39-43**Peggy Brown**

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Extinguish Eleventh Candle

Special Music

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed, v. 3
Sarah Chambers, Karen Ingle, Amy McCarthy

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Musical Mediation Were You There

The Lord's Prayer (whispered)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,*

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.

Depart in Silence

Go in peace and may the Spirit of Christ go with you tonight and always.