

Order for Worship
April 2, 2021
Good Friday
7:30 PM Recorded Service

WELCOME

PRELUDE Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross – arr. McChesney
 Youth Handbell Choir

Ring Together Easter, arr. Kevin McChesney; ©1998 Jeffers Handbell Supply, Inc.
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+ WE GATHER BEFORE GOD +

WE COME TO GOD IN WORSHIP

We have been here before—
A place of grieving and mourning.
We have been here before—
A night that seems it won't end.
We have been here before—
Knee deep in fear, knee deep in doubt.
We have been here before—
Good Friday, the night Christ died.
So once again, we find ourselves here—
In community, in God's arms.
Where else would we go when the world falls apart?

Let us worship God.

HYMN ELW 338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

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.

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.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869; Public Domain

GREETING

The mercy of God, the love of Jesus
and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

WE CONFESS TO GOD

If any of you ever missed curfew,
you might know the feeling of trying to sneak back in—
tiptoeing past your parent's bedroom door.

Maybe you carried your shoes in your hands,
trying to be stealthy, hoping they don't catch you.
In many ways, we treat Good Friday the same way—
like a teenager trying to avoid curfew.

We long to tiptoe past this painful day.
We long to avoid the confrontation and the hurt.
We want to take off our shoes and slide right past the cross
and onward to the empty tomb.

But you and I both know, there is no resurrection without crucifixion.
There are no flowers without the rain, there is no love without a little heartache.
It's cliché; but in this case, it's true.

So in a moment, I want to invite you to join me in the prayer of confession
as we take the time to intentionally stand still—
right *here*—with both feet on the ground.
Pray with me. . .

**Holy God,
We admit that we struggle with this day.
We struggle with Good Friday for three reasons.**

**First, no one likes to see another suffer.
On this day we are face to face with the cross,
and your suffering is hard for us to bear.**

**Second, the pain of this day reminds us of the pain of past and present days,
and our own pain is hard for us to bear.**

**Third, we are reminded of the suffering we cast onto others,
which means we have to confront the pain we have caused you.**

**So forgive us for skirting around the edges of this day.
Forgive us for averting our eyes
and avoiding the sinking feeling in our chests.
Forgive us for distracting ourselves from the hurt,
and forgive us for the ways in which we add to the suffering of this world.
We do not like to be here—**

**a place of grief and despair,
at the foot of the cross,
face to face with state-sanctioned violence.
And yet, here is where we are.
So forgive us, and then use us for your good.
Gratefully we pray. Amen.**

Family of faith,
even on this day,
even at the foot of the cross,
even here,
even now,
Christ is saying, "Forgive them. They know not what they do."
We often don't feel that we deserve this grace,
but we receive it nonetheless.
Say these words aloud with me, and trust that they belong to you:
**In my best and worst moments, I am a Child of God.
Nothing can separate me from that truth, not even death.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THIS DAY

Holy God,
Scripture tells us there was a lot of shouting on your crucifixion day.
The crowds were yelling:
"Take him away!"
"Crucify him!"
"This man claims he is King of the Jews!"
And Mary cried out in grief.
And you cried out in pain.
It seems there was a lot of shouting.
2,000 years later, and we're still shouting,
And the world is still filled with violence.
The air feels so full of words, so full of hurt.
I imagine you know the feeling.
So today we ask that you quiet us in this moment.
Quiet our minds.
Quiet our insecurities and our distractions.
Quiet our fears.
Quiet us to hear your voice, and speak to us now.
We are listening.
Amen.

HYMN ELW 349 Ah, Holy Jesus

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded,
God interceded.

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,

thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
for my salvation.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt. Public Domain

FIRST READING Isaiah 52:13—53:12

WE COME TO GOD IN PRAYER

The prayers conclude:

Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask.

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 and ever. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING Jesus Paid It All – arr. Stevens
Jenna Krauss, flute

The Sacred Flute, Arrangements for Flute and Piano; © 2016 James M Stevens ASCAP “Jesus Paid It All”
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+ SERVICE OF TENEBRAE +

The Shadow of Prediction

READING John 13:31-38

POEM The Path of Faith by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

The Shadow of the Agony of Spirit

HYMN ELW 348 Stay with Me

Stay with me,
remain here with me,
watch and pray.
Watch and pray. (Repeat 2 times)

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READING Mark 14:32-42

**So while we are here,
again,
at the foot of the cross,
in the darkness,
knee deep in despair,
and face to face with pain,
We profess:
We believe in the sunrise.
We believe in the power of gathering together.
We believe that phone calls and hugs can make a difference.
We believe that life is not fair, but is overflowing with love.
We believe that we cannot go this path alone.
We believe that even here, even on this day, God is drawing near.
Amen.**

SOLO What Wondrous Love Is This

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
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DISMISSAL

May Jesus Christ
who for our sakes became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross,
keep you and strengthen you.
Amen.

WORSHIP ENDS IN SILENCE



Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers:

Alex Kunkel, Bob Moran, Betsy Rodger, Robin Seasock, Paige Seasock, Peyton Seasock, Nancy Terpoilli, Brian Allebach, Glen Van Dyke, Charles Krupp, RuthAnn Jadick, Jean Leister, Kenny Nace, Tom Ciesielka, Abigail and Eric Hails, Sonny Carson, Frank Puskoskie, Ann Brown Hager, Alyssa Gegan, David Mounts, Ann Lewis, Carolyn Iris, Melissa Snyder, Sandy Umstead, Theresa Hasson, Renaud Fix, Joseph and Lisa Yost, Theresa Gross and Lynda Lysoby.