

AGAIN & AGAIN
A LENTEN REFRAIN



Good Friday
again & again, we find ourselves here



Good Friday
April 3, 2026
Noon and 7:30 p.m.

GATHERING MUSIC

Chorale Prelude on "HERZLIEBSTER JESU"

Helmut Walcha

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor David Gray

One: In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep. Then God said,

All: "Let there be light."

One: And there was light. And, again and again, every day since, the light has come and gone.

All: The sun has risen and set.

One: The moon has waxed and waned.

All: The light is still with us.

One: In the beginning was the Word, which brought all things into being. What has come into being through him is life,

All: the light of all people.

One: The light shined in the darkness,

All: and the darkness did not overtake it.

One: When God made the light, when the light of all people came into the world, God did not send away the dark.

All: The darkness remains.

One: God created the night for dreams and clarity,

All: an exhaling of the light.

One: Let us enter this holy darkness to bear witness to the light of the world who was extinguished by violence.

All: Let us worship our Incarnate God.

OPENING SONG

Within Our Darkest Night

Taizé Community

Ostinato Refrain / Estribillo

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
En nues-tra os - cu - ri - dad, en - cien - de la

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -
lla - ma de tu a - mor, Se - ñor, de tu a - mor, Se -

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the
ñor. En nues-tra os - cu - ri - dad, en - cien - de la

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.
lla - ma de tu a - mor, Se - ñor, de tu a - mor, Se - ñor.

Text: Taizé Community, 1991
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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WELCOME

Pastor Denise Diab

FIRST READING: BETRAYAL AND ARREST

John 18:1-8

***HYMN 93**

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

SECOND READING: SENTENCING

John 19:4-6;12-16

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we can easily see ourselves in any number of the people surrounding Jesus in his final days.

We are Judas, betraying what we hold most dear for status, wealth, and security.

We are the soldiers, using our power to maintain the status quo which serves us.

We are the disciples, brandishing our weapons to fight violence with violence, and we are the high priest's servant, victims of a world hell-bent on winning.

Prince of Peace, forgive us.

We are Herod, finding our entertainment at the expense of other people's dignity.

We are Pilate, excusing ourselves from the blame that is rightfully ours.

We are the crowd, foaming at the mouth and demanding blood, and we are Barabbas, our lives spared while others are crucified.

Prince of Peace, forgive us.

Forgive us, we pray, for the parts we have played. Set us free from the sin that chokes the world, threatening to extinguish all that is good and beautiful. Break the cycles of violence, step into the machinery of a world fueled by division and disrupt us.

Forgive us, Prince of Peace. Kyrie eleison. Have mercy on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, our God is always waiting with open arms to receive us.

Receive and believe the impossibly good news.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

RESPONSE

***HYMN 85** What Wondrous Love Is This vs. 1

WONDRIOUS LOVE

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss

to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,

to bear the heavy cross for my soul.

THIRD READING: CRUCIFIXION

John 19:4,14-18

WALKING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to journey spiritually with Christ using our modified version of the Stations of the Cross ritual (see The Stations of the Cross Devotion Guide for further information on the *via Dolorosa*). Following the direction of the ushers, begin by exiting the sanctuary through the center rear door. The First Station is in the Narthex.

Please listen for the organ to indicate when you should return to your seat.

- First Station: Jesus Prays for His Disciples | Narthex (exit Sanctuary by center aisle)
- Second Station: Jesus is Betrayed & Arrested | Small Conference Room*
- Third Station: Jesus is Sentenced | Hallway
- Fourth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem | Hallway
- Fifth Station: Jesus Addresses His Mother and Beloved Disciple | North Transept
- Sixth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross | North Transept
- Seventh Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb | Columbarium

*The Small Conference Room is located next to the restroom in the North Transept hallway.

MUSICAL OFFERINGS DURING STATIONS OF THE CROSS WALK

Paul Vasile, piano (Noon)

Marie Marquis, soprano; Brynn Farlow, tenor; Paul Vasile, organ (7:30 pm)

Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben from the *St. Matthew Passion*

J.S. Bach

Aus Liebe will mein Heiland sterben,
Out of love my Savior wants to die.
Von einer Sünde weiß er nichts,
He knows nothing of a single sin;
Daß das ewigen Verderben
so that the eternal destruction
und die Strafe des Gerichts
and the punishment of judgment
Nicht auf meiner Seele bliebe.
would not remain upon my soul.

The Crucifixion

Samuel Barber

At the cry of the first bird
They began to crucify Thee, O Swan!
Never shall lament cease because of that.
It was like the parting of day from night.
Ah, sore was the suffering borne
By the body of Mary's Son,
But sorer still to Him was the grief
Which for His sake
Came upon His Mother.

He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word

African-American Spiritual, arr. Hogan

They crucified my Lord and he never said a mumbalin' word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.

Note: During this time, those online and those in the sanctuary who prefer to remain seated are invited to listen to the musical offerings and experience The Stations of the Cross using the Devotion Guide beginning on page 8.

***HYMN 98**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

FOURTH READING: CHRIST'S LAST WORDS

John 19:26-30

FINAL MEDITATION

"Done Done"

Denise Diaab

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Watch & Pray

John Lyzenga

Watch and pray. Won't you stay with me?
Oh, remain with me.

Oh, suffering God, how you know loneliness.
Oh, suffering God, how you weep for us.
Oh, suffering God, how you know injustice.
Oh, suffering God, won't you stay with us?

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

DEPARTING IN SILENCE

At the end of the service, following the extinguishing of the light there will be a strepitus. The strepitus (Latin for "great noise") symbolizes the sound of the tomb being shut and the earthquake described in Matthew's Gospel.

Kindly honor silence in the sanctuary until the lights are turned up.

Please feel free to revisit the Stations of the Cross following the service.

Worship Notes

Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Bulletin Cover Logo design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman and Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

"Watch and Pray" song and lyrics by John Lyzenga, was released on his album In Troubled Times in 2019. The song reflects on Jesus' message to his disciples on the night before his crucifixion and offers encouragement for challenging times.

Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Theology and Worship, Stations of the Cross Liturgy

Easter

At Bradley Hills

Sunday, April 5

IDENTICAL SERVICES AT
9:15 AM & 11:15 AM

Message by Pastor David Gray

WITH BRASS AND CHOIR



THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS DEVOTION GUIDE

Tradition has it that following the crucifixion, Jesus' mother regularly walked the path that Jesus took on Good Friday from the court of Pilate to Calvary. Subsequently, for early followers of Jesus, the *Via Dolorosa* (the Way of Sorrow, also known as Stations of the Cross) began as a pilgrimage to walk the same path that Christ walked on his journey to the cross. Over the years, to accommodate those who were unable to travel to Jerusalem, churches began to create walking prayer meditations with fourteen stations that represented the stops that Jesus made. Many art forms have been used to evoke the pain, sorrow, and suffering of Jesus during his final hours. While the Stations of the Cross can be walked any time of year, it is traditionally associated with believers' focus on spiritual growth, repentance, restoration and transformation during the Lenten Season.

You are invited to come along as we "walk" a modified version of this ancient tradition of remembering Christ's death. Using this devotion guide, you can experience the seven stations that the congregation is walking in the sanctuary.



FIRST STATION: JESUS PRAYS WITH HIS DISCIPLES



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."

Matthew 26:36-41

SILENT REFLECTION

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

SECOND STATION: JESUS IS BETRAYED AND ARRESTED



SILENT REFLECTION

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

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, "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.

Mark 14:43-46

THIRD STATION: JESUS IS SENTENCED



SILENT REFLECTION

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

When the chief priests and the guards saw [Jesus] they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Ta 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.

John 19:6,15-17

FOURTH STATION: JESUS MEETS THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM



III V
and Jesus said to the women of Jerusalem,
do not weep for me, weep for yourselves and for your children.

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?"

Luke 23:27-31

SILENT REFLECTION

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

FIFTH STATION: JESUS ADDRESSES HIS MOTHER AND BELOVED DISCIPLE



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.

John 19:25-27

SILENT REFLECTION

Consider *the kind of family Christ wants us to be.*

SIXTH STATION: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS



SILENT REFLECTION

...knowing that all was now finished, Jesus said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:28-30

SEVENTH STATION: JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB



SILENT REFLECTION

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.

Matthew 27:57-60



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.



Worship Schedule

Services at 8:30 & 10:30 am

April 5 | Easter Sunday | Identical Services at 9:15 and 11:15 a.m. |
Preaching: Pastor David Gray

April 12 | Communion | Preaching: Pastor David Gray

April 19 | Blessing of the Animals at 8:30 a.m. service |
Preaching: Pastor Denise Diaab at 10:30 a.m. service

April 26 | Youth Sunday

May 3 | Communion | Preaching: Pastor David Gray


All *are welcome here.*