



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE  
MIFFLIN AVENUE AND SOUTH AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

April 2, 2021 – 1:00 PM

Order of Worship

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CENTERING

PRELUDE "He Never Said A Mumbalin' Word" Spiritual

INVITATION TO CONSIDER THE CROSS

Pastor: Jesus cried from the cross, using the words of the psalmist: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O My God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but find no rest. This is a time of shadows, when darkness covered the earth.

People: **This is a time to acknowledge the dark night of the soul, when even God in Jesus felt separated from God's own self.**

Pastor: This is the time when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death.

People: **This is the time God wept over the earth.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" No. 297, v. 1

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We cry out to God as we find ourselves surrounded by the darkness of sin.

People: **We would examine our lives from within, that we might see ourselves, as God sees us.**

Pastor: We are mindful of those who crucified Jesus, as they allowed sin to direct their lives.

People: **We would see ourselves in the lives of others, and realize that we were there when they nailed him to the cross.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus, we have come to Calvary with you. We seek to know the agony you suffered there.

**People: Hear our prayer, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Teach us to endure, as you endured, the scorn of unbelievers and the torments of our enemies.

**People: Hear our prayer, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Save us from despair when we are circled round about.

**People: Hear our prayer, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Help us keep strong faith in you forever. When we fault, rescue us. When we forget your promises, refresh our memories. When we face death, be with us faithfully.

**People: Hear our prayer, Lord Jesus.**

## THE INVITATION

Pastor: Jesus, we come - to walk the road with you – to follow you to the cross.

**People: We seek to know the agony you suffered there.**

Pastor: We prepare ourselves now to follow your footprints in the dust—to understand how you died—to understand how we die.

**People: Teach us to endure, as you endured the scorn of unbelievers and the torments of our enemies.**

Pastor: We come to understand how you lived—to understand how we are to live.

**People: Help us keep strong faith in you forever. When we falter, rescue us. When we forget your promises, refresh our memories. When we face death, be with us faithfully.**

Pastor: Now as we begin the journey of the cross, we open our hearts and minds to you.

**People: We lay aside for these moments the trivialities of our life and bring ourselves into your presence.**

Pastor: May God speak to us what we need to hear and help us to hear not just words that are spoken, but your word spoken afresh in our hearts.

**People: Speak, for your servant is listening.**

## SILENT MEDITATION

## THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

## STATION 1:

Pilate Condemns Jesus to Die

Matthew 27:11-14, 24, 26b

## SILENT MEDITATION

## PRAYER

Pastor: Jesus, I see in your silence the quiet strength that reveals a peace and a resolve. O Lord, help me deal with the unfairness of life without becoming critical of others. Help me to be sensitive to the pain and feelings of others. Give me the courage to do what is right without being swayed by the demands of others.

**People: O Lord, hear our prayers.**

***Were you there when they stood my Lord on trial? Were you there when they stood my Lord on trial?***

***Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they stood my Lord on trial?***

**STATION 2:****Jesus Accepts His Cross****Matthew 27:27-31**

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, forgive me for forgetting that in my weakness, I am driven to trust in you, and that in such trust, my weakness becomes your strength. Forgive my attitudes of self-pity that makes me more repulsive than loving. I do not ask for crosses to bear. But when they come, give me the strength to bear them as one who follows your example.

**People: O Lord, be merciful to us.**

HYMN

"Sung to the tune of "Were You There"

***Were you there when the soldiers mocked my Lord? Were you there when the soldiers mocked my Lord?  
Oh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when the soldiers mocked my Lord?***

**STATION 3:****Simon Helps Carry the Cross****Mark 15:21**

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, forgive me for becoming so preoccupied with myself that I have become deaf and blind to the grief and suffering of those around me. Forgive me for my indifference. Constantly remind me that I cannot love you without loving others as well. Help me always remember that to be a follower of yours means that I share in the burdens of others. Lord, show me someone whose cross I may help carry.

**People: O Lord, hear our prayers.**

HYMN

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

No. 301, vs. 1 &amp; 2

**STATION 4:****Jesus Speaks to the Women****Luke 23:27-31**

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, forgive my unwillingness to repent, to confess all that I am before you. Help me go beyond the repentance mouthed in words of false piety, to sweep away all the facades of who I try so hard to be before others, and recall who I really am inside. Help me once again stand before God, with a bare and open heart. Help me not just to repent in words, but to put that repentance into action in everything I am and do. O Lord, give me the gift of tears to weep for my own failures, for my sins, for the pain I bring to others, and to live the fruits of repentance.

**People: O Lord, be merciful to us.**

HYMN

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

No. 286, vs. 1 &amp; 2

**STATION 5:****Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments****John 19:23-25a**

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, forgive me for wanting to take the path of glory and reward. Forgive me for my selfishness that wants to serve you in easy ways and seeks the reward of others' praise. Lord, teach me the humility of spirit that replaces self-centeredness with a sacrificial spirit. Make me vulnerable so that I may follow your example. Help me see those around me who are in need. Give me the courage to lay aside the things that I use to hide from their need, and find ways to minister to others as you have shown us.

**People: O Lord, hear our prayers.**

HYMN

"O Love Divine, What Has Thou Done"

No. 287, vs. 1 &amp; 2

**STATION 6:****Jesus is Nailed to the Cross****Mark 15:23-32**

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, remind me of the deathly cost of sin. Forgive me for those things I have done that are displeasing to you. Forgive me for not allowing you to deal with the darkness that I harbor in the hidden recesses of my heart. Forgive me for fooling myself into believing that I am more righteous than I am, that I am better than others, and that I have no need to repent. Forgive me for those things I should have done, but found excuses not to do. O Lord, make me better than I am, transform me into what I can be by your grace.

**People: O Lord, forgive us for those things we have done and those things we have left undone. In your grace, be merciful to us.**

SOLO

"Were You There"

Dean Patterson

**STATION 7:****Jesus Cares for His Mother****John 19:25b-27**

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, make me whole so that I may love with the compassion with which you love. Give me the courage to stand beside those who are hurting and share their pain. You know everything about me, my weakness, my faults, and my sin. Redeem me and make me new. Through your strength and by your grace, make me a conduit of your love, not just to the lovable, but to any who need to be cared for and loved.

**People: O Lord, hear our prayers.**

HYMN

"What Wondrous Love is This"

No. 292, vs. 1 &amp; 2

**STATION 8:****Jesus Dies on the Cross****Mark 15:33-39**

SILENT MEDITATION

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord, I cannot comprehend the depth and breadth of your love. There are not enough words in all languages together to describe what your love means to me. May my love for you and my love for all your children in some way reflect your love. Let this dark night become fertile soil for growth in your love and for our growth as a community of Faith. May you use this night to teach us how to love and to love others the way you have loved us. O Lord, we long for newness, for hope, for renewal, for life where there is now death. Out of this darkness bring us to the light of a new dawn. O Lord, have mercy on us.

**People: O Lord, hear our prayers. We hope in you and trust in your mercy.**

HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

No. 298

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor: Christ has died.

**People: The tomb is sealed.**

Pastor: It is finished.