ST. PAUL’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CONCORD

A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WAY OF THE CROSS
WITH
THE SOLEMN COLLECTS FOR GOOD FRIDAY

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020
1:00 TO 4:00 PM

In light of the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis,
it is necessary for us to offer this year’s Vigil in digital form.
We are very grateful to all our participants
for their willingness to work together in this flexible way;
and we hope you will be forgiving of any technical hitches that may occur!

LITURGISTS
Rev. Kate Atkinson, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church;
Alex Atkinson; Michael Atkinson; AshleyJane Boots; Linda Douglas; Kristin Dunklee;
Rev Cheryl Moore, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church;
Rev. Steve Ekerberg, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church;
Rev. Virg Fryer, Bow Mills Methodist Church;
Rev. Emilia Halstead, First Congregational Church, Concord;
Rev. Jonathan Hopkins, Concordia Lutheran Church, Concord;
Rev. Carlos Jauhola-Straight, South Congregational Church, Concord;
Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger, Unitarian Universalist Church, Concord;
Rev. Cheryl Meachen, Wesley United Methodist Church, Concord;
Rev. Cheryl Moore, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church;
Rev. Gayle Murphy, Minister at Large, United Church of Christ;
Tamar Roberts

MUSICIANS
Heather Maconaghy, Director of Music Ministries, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Tim Cline; Catharine Dornin; Handel and Haydn Society; Peggo Hodes; Gary Hodges;
Andrew Livernois; Larry Maconaghy; Shira Nafshi; Fernando Ortega; Michael W. Smith
A TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WAY OF THE CROSS

Many of us in the course of our lives experience unique “ways of the cross” through encountering and embracing the suffering of others.

Some examples of these observations and interactions are included in the ‘Meditations and Prayers’ of this Good Friday liturgy, written by Kate Atkinson, Maryellen Garnier, and Mary Elizabeth O’Brien.

Prelude: He Was Despised by G.F. Handel

Opening Prayer led by Rev. Kate Atkinson

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

We will glory in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In whom is our salvation, our life, and resurrection.

STATION I: JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DIE led by Rev. Michael Leuchtenberger

+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Responsive Prayer

You are worthy, O Christ, for you were slain;
for by your blood you ransomed people for God:
from every race and language, from every people and nation,
to make them a kingdom of priests to stand and serve before our God.

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us a kingdom of priests to stand and serve before our God.

To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor,
glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading  Mark 15:15-17

God did not spare his own Son:

But delivered him up for us all.

Meditation and Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus,

who in your own innocence was condemned to die
for choosing to embrace our fragile world,
help us to embrace our physical condemnations.
I get angry sometimes; it seems so unfair.
I can't understand; I don't ask to.
Only grant me the grace to cross over;
to stand as your loving presence with those condemned to death from illness or disease.

Music: O Sacred Head Now Wounded Traditional
Michael W. Smith

Responsive Prayer
O Christ, put your hand where our prayers beckon.
Through our lives and by our prayers,
your kingdom come.

STATION II: JESUS TAKES UP HIS CROSS led by Rev. Emilia Halstead
+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
   Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Psalm 55:1-10
1 Hear my prayer, O God; *
do not hide yourself from my petition.
2 Listen to me and answer me; *
I have no peace, because of my cares.
3 I am shaken by the noise of the enemy *
and by the pressure of the wicked;
4 For they have cast an evil spell upon me *
and are set against me in fury.
5 My heart quakes within me, *
and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
6 Fear and trembling have come over me, *
and horror overwhelms me.
7 And I said, “Oh, that I had wings like a dove! *
I would fly away and be at rest.
8 I would flee to a far off place *
and make my lodging in the wilderness.
9 I would hasten to escape *
from the stormy wind and tempest.”
10 Swallow them up, O Lord; confound their speech; *
for I have seen violence and strife in the city.

Scripture Reading John 19:16b-17
The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all:
   For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Meditation and Prayer
Blessed Lord Jesus, you took up such a heavy cross for us.
Help us to accept the crosses that loss, fear and disappointment impose.
Taking up a cross is a fearful task -- but you blessed the action with your love and compassion.
Teach us to help others to look to you for courage and strength
as they struggle to take up their personal crosses.
Music: Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1 by J.S. Bach

Prayer

STATION III: JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME led by Michael Atkinson

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Music: Lamento by B. Britten

Prayer

Scripture Reading Isaiah 53:4, 7-8

Surely he has borne our griefs: And carried away our sorrows.

Meditation and Prayer

The Prayers

O Savior of the poor, liberate your people.

TRee of our lives and by our prayers, your kingdom come.

STATION IV: JESUS MEETS HIS SORROWFUL MOTHER led by Rev. Gayle Murphy

Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Music: O Sacred Head Now Wounded Traditional

Responsive Prayer

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you:
you are gentle with us like a mother with her children.

In your love and tenderness, remake us.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds:
in sickness you care for us and with pure milk you feed us.

_In your love and tenderness, remake us._

Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life:
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.

_In your love and tenderness, remake us._

From St. Anselm (1033-1109)

**STATION V: SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS CARRY THE CROSS** led by Rev. Jon Hopkins

_We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you._

_Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world._

Psalm 54

1 _Save me, O God, by your Name; *_
   in your might, defend my cause.

2 _Hear my prayer, O God; *_
   give ear to the words of my mouth.

3 _For the arrogant have risen up against me,_
   and the ruthless have sought my life, *_
   those who have no regard for God._

4 _Behold, God is my helper; *_
   it is the Lord who sustains my life._

5 _Render evil to those who spy on me; *_
   in your faithfulness, destroy them._

6 _I will offer you a freewill sacrifice *_
   and praise your Name, O LORD, for it is good._

7 _For you have rescued me from every trouble, *_
   and my eye has seen the ruin of my foes._

**Scripture Reading**  Luke 23:26

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me,

_cannot be my disciple._

**Meditation and Prayer**

_Blessed Lord Jesus, the weight of your heavy cross was lightened_

_by the young, strong arms of Simon._

_Teach us to use our arms and our hearts_

to lighten the painful suffering of those around us._

_Give us grace to lift heavy loads off the shoulders of others._

**Music:** O Sacred Head Now Wounded  Traditional  Heather Maconaghy

**The Prayers**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, who scatters the darkness.

_Through our lives and by our prayers, your kingdom come._

**STATION VI: A WOMAN WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS** led by Rev. Virg Fryer

_We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you._

_Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world._
Responsive Prayer
You are worthy, O Christ, for you were slain;
For by your blood you ransomed people for God:
From every race and language, from every people and nation,
To make them a kingdom of priests to stand and serve before our God.

   We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
   Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
And made us a kingdom of priests to stand and serve before our God.

   To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb
   be praise and honor, glory and might, for ever and ever.
   Amen.

Scripture Reading  Isaiah 53:2-3

Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts:
   Show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Meditation and Prayer

   Dearest Lord, you know about struggling for life.
   You experienced human cruelty in the most devastating way;
you were betrayed by those you came to save.

   We have the precious gift of being able to comfort others
   as you were comforted by some in your time of suffering.
   Teach us to honor and revere that gift.

Music: He Was Despised by G.F. Handel  Peggo Hodes

Poem  By Ann Weems

STATION VII: JESUS FALLS A SECOND TIME  led by Rev. Carlos Jauhola Straight

+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
   Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
   I shall not be in want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
   and leads me beside still waters.
3 He revives my soul *
   and guides me along right pathways for his Name’s sake.
4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
   for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
   you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
   and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Scripture Reading  1 Peter 2:24

He was pierced for our transgressions;
   And bruised for our iniquities.
Meditation and Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, in your blessed humanity, you chose to bear the pain of a heavy cross,
and to embrace the shame of falling beneath its weight.
Teach us to accept our human weaknesses;
and teach us never to judge the weakness of others when they fall.

Music: O Sacred Head Now Wounded Traditional Catharine Dornin

The Prayers
Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

STATION VIII: JESUS COMFORTS THE JERUSALEM WOMEN led by Kristin Dunklee
+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Poem By Janet Morley

Those who sowed with tears:
Will reap with songs of joy.

Meditation and Prayer
Beloved Lord, you knew what lay ahead;
you knew about the suffering and you knew about the shame.
Yet, in your own terrible pain,
you reached out and comforted the women who loved you.
Help us to have the strength and courage to comfort our loved ones;
help us to lift them up to you in their sorrow that they may receive your comfort.

Music: Those Who Sow by D. Friedman Shira Nafshi

Prayer By Richard Harries

STATION IX: JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME led by Rev. Cheryl Moore
+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Psalm 31: 5, 9-15
5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.
9 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am in trouble; *
my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.
10 For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; *
my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.
11 I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbors,
A dismay to those of my acquaintance; *
When they see me in the street they avoid me.
12 I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; *
I am as useless as a broken pot.
For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; *
they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

But as for me, I have trusted in you, O Lord. *
I have said, “You are my God.
My times are in your hand; *
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

Scripture Reading  Hebrews 4:15-16
He was led like a lamb to the slaughter:
And like a sheep that before its shearers is mute, so he opened not his mouth.

Meditation and Prayer
Lord Jesus,
when you experienced that third painful fall it must have been devastating.
Did you wonder if you could rise again and complete the awful journey?
Help us to reach out to others when they fall.
Help us to help them stand and embrace their journey of living.

Music: O Sacred Head Now Wounded  Traditional  Fernando Ortega

Poem: Shock Me with the Terrible Goodness of this Friday  By Ted Loder

STATION X: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS  led by AshleyJane Boots
+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Poem: Tragic Error  By Denise Levertov

Scripture Reading  John 19:23-24
They gave me gall to eat:
And when I was thirsty they gave me vinegar to drink.

Meditation and Prayer
Dear Lord Jesus,
it’s so hard to see people’s exploitation of God’s creation.
Help us to remember always to revere the sacredness of life
and to accept our responsibility as stewards of the earth.

Music: O Sacred Head Now Wounded  Traditional  Andrew Livernois

Prayer  By Victoria Pearson

STATION XI: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS  led by Tamar Roberts
+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Responsive Prayer
You are worthy, O Christ, for you were slain;
For by your blood you ransomed people for God:
From every race and language, from every people and nation,
To make them a kingdom of priests to stand and serve before our God.
We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

To him who loves us
And has freed us from our sins by his blood,
And made us a kingdom of priests to stand and serve before our God.

To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor,
glory and might, for ever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading  Matthew 27:39-40
They pierce my hands and feet:
They stare and gloat over me.

Meditation and Prayer

Blessed Lord Jesus, it’s so very hard to lose control.
You experienced that indignity as the nails pierced your skin.
Teach us to be gentle with those
who are grieving the loss of the life they once lived;
teach us to help them bear their frustration and helplessness
with grace and with dignity.

Music: O Sacred Head Now Wounded  Traditional  Larry Maconaghy

Poem ‘The Man with the Bag of Nails’  By John Ballard

STATION XII: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS  led by Rev. Cheryl Meachen
+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Psalm 22:1-21

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
   and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?  
2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
   by night as well, but I find no rest.  
3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
   enthroned upon the praises of Israel.  
4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
   they trusted, and you delivered them.  
5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
   they trusted in you and were not put to shame.  
6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
   scorned by all and despised by the people.  
7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
   they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,  
8 “He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; *
   let him rescue him, if he delights in him.”  
9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
   and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.  
10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
   you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.
11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
   and there is none to help.
12 Many young bulls encircle me; *
   strong bulls of Bashan surround me.
13 They open wide their jaws at me, *
   like a ravening and a roaring lion.
14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; *
   my heart within my breast is melting wax.
15 My mouth is dried out like a potsherd; *
   my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
   and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.
16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
   they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.
17 They stare and gloat over me; *
   they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.
18 Be not far away, O LORD; *
   you are my strength; hasten to help me.
19 Save me from the sword, *
   my life from the power of the dog.
20 Save me from the lion’s mouth, *
   my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.
21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
   in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

Scripture Reading  Mark 15:37-39
Jesus for us became obedient unto death:
   Even death on a cross.

Meditation and Prayer
   Dearest Jesus,
   you knew human death intimately;
   you who chose to experience the passage in its fullness because you loved so deeply.
   It’s a frightening thing;
   this letting go of everyone and everything we know.
   But you taught us to know your Father in heaven.
   Help us to help others discover his loving presence in eternity.

Music: Kol Nidrei by B. Bruch  Gary Hodges

Prayer
By Marcyn Del Clements

STATION XIII: JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS led by Alex Atkinson
+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
   Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Poem: Into The West  By Annie Lennox

Scripture Reading  John 19:38-42
His tears run down his cheeks:
   And he has none to comfort him.
Meditation and Prayer

Blessed Lord Jesus,
it is hard to lose those who have touched our lives so profoundly.
Help us to remember that they are not lost because they are safe in your loving care.
Strengthen us with our memories
and all that we shared in our life together,
so that they will live on in our hearts and bring healing to our souls.

Music: O Sacred Head Now Wounded Traditional Handel and Haydn Society

Responsive Prayer

Lord God, by the authority of the Scriptures,
we learn that we are the body of Christ.

Yes, even we who worship in different ways,
even we whose understanding of you is so changeable,
even we, who in our low moments, make an idol of our insignificance.

We are your body, we are told.
Then, Lord, make us like you, that our souls may be the stained glass
through which your light and purpose bring beauty and meaning into the world.

Through our lives and by our prayers, your kingdom come.

Your kingdom come in joy and generosity,
in the small and the large, the ordinary and the special,
and to you be the glory now and always.

Amen.

STATION XIV: JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB led by Linda Douglas

+ We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Psalm 46:1-4

1 God is our refuge and strength, *
a very present help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, *
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
3 Though its waters rage and foam, *
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
4 The Lord of hosts is with us; *
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Scripture Reading Matthew 27:59-61

You will not abandon me to the grave:
Nor let your holy One see corruption.

Meditation and Prayer

You understand, dearest Lord Jesus.
You were only 33 years old and it seemed just too soon for you also.
But you, the Divine Son, knew that your Father’s time is not our time.
And you embraced the tomb
that we might celebrate your life forever.
Teach us to treasure the magnificent gift
that your death and entombment was for us;
Jesus of Nazareth,
who died and rose and became for all humanity,
Jesus, the Christ.

Music: O Sacred Head Now Wounded  Traditional
      Gary Hodges

Prayer

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.

The Solemn Collects led by Rev. Steve Ekerberg and Rev. Kate Atkinson
...who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Good Friday Anthem led by Rev. Cheryl Moore

We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of God’s countenance, and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
We glory in your cross, O Lord,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;
for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.

Hymn 172 Were You There? (sung a cappella) The Ensemble

STATION XV: JESUS IS Risen FROM THE DEAD led by Rev. Kate Atkinson

Meditation

The Concluding Collect

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death
between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death.
Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead;
to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory;
for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you in the Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Holy Week causes us to focus on our Lord’s sacrificial offering of love on the cross and our response in faith to that outpouring of love for us and for all of creation.

Love is at the heart of the meaning of the cross. Love is at the heart of the life Christ calls us to live. Love is at the heart of the movement Jesus began and which we live in our own time.

Love is at the foundation of the Good Friday Offering of our Church which provides an opportunity for every parish throughout our Church to be connected with the ministry of love and compassion carried out by our Anglican sisters and brothers throughout the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

I believe our partnership with those who keep the faith of Jesus alive in the region, where our Lord walked and began his movement, is a significant aspect of our work as part of the church catholic.

The Good Friday Offering provides hope and opportunity for students, patients, needy families and more in the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. We do make a difference. This is important. I have witnessed this Jesus-inspired compassion and commitment at work with my own eyes.

Thank you for considering this important witness to the love of Jesus across our Church.

May God bless you and keep you always. I remain

Your brother in Christ,

+ Michael B. Curry

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry