

Good Friday
Jesus, Seven Last Words
A Service of Shadows and Stones
Date: March 29, 2024
4:30 p.m.

Prayer of Preparation

Arapaho, Native American

*Great Spirit have pity on me, Great Spirit have pity on me;
I am crying for thirst;
All is gone - I have nothing to eat, all is gone - I have nothing to eat.*

Gathering in the Presence of God

As you walk into the sanctuary there is a basket of stones please, pick up a stone, hold and rub the stone throughout the service. At the conclusion of the service you will be invited to approach the Communion Table and place the stone beneath the Christ Candle and the Cross leaving behind your worries, letting go of the weight, marking an encounter with God, and remembering the time Jesus spent in the grave until Easter morning.

Gathering Music

Agnus Dei, J.S. Bach

David Libby
(with Improvisation)

Welcome &

Pastor Eddie

Call to Worship(*based on Lamentations 1:12*)

All you who pass this way

look and see the shadow of sin.

All you who pass this way

look and see the weight of the world.

All you who pass this way

look and see the suffering of our Savior.

All you who pass this way

look and see the sorrow of Jesus Christ.

Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

Hymn *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*
& Lighting of the Christ Candle

GTG 221

The First Word Luke 23:33-34
Stone of Condemnation

Marge Egger

When they came to that place 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.*"

Silent Meditation on the First Word

Unison Prayer: Forgiving Christ, when the world condemns us, when wrong is done to us, when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come alongside us in the darkness and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.

Song Response: *Were You There* (v. 1) GTG 228

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

The Second Word Luke 23:39-43

Ken McDyer

The Stone of Separation

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.*"

Silent Meditation on the Second Word

Unison Prayer: Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world that is not at peace, a people who are not whole. You

reached out to the thief; you welcomed him to God's side. Come alongside us in the darkness and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken.

Taize Song Response: *Jesus Remember Me* GTG 227

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom

The Third Word John 19:25-27 Silvia Ritchie

The Stone of Sorrow

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "*Here is your mother.*" *And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*

Silent Meditation on the Third Word

Unison Prayer: Loving Jesus, we carry the weight of the people we love. We are concerned for their sorrows and suffering. Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do. Come alongside us in the darkness and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands.

Song Response: *Where You There* (v. 2) GTG 228

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

The Fourth Word Mark 15:33-34 Pam Jusino

The Stone of Despair

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*"

Silent Meditation on the Fourth Word

Unison Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God's presence. Come alongside us in the darkness and help us call out for God.

Taize Song Response: *O Lord, Hear My Prayer* GTG 471

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

The Fifth Word John 19:28 Bonnie Ekas

The Stone of Suffering

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), *"I am thirsty."*

Silent Meditation on the Fifth Word

Unison Prayer: Suffering Savior, in all our thirst, in all our sickness, in all our longing, in all our pain, you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness and walk with us through all our suffering.

Song Response: *Where You There* (v.4) GTG 228

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (Were you there?)

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

The Sixth Word John 19:29-30 Judy McDyer

The Stone of Death

A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, *"It is finished."* Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Silent Meditation on the Sixth Word

Unison Prayer: Dearest Jesus, even in death you are with us. When we mourn, when we are afraid, when we come to our own end, you have been there too. Come alongside us in the darkness and carry us through death to life.

Taize Song Response: *Our Darkness* GTG 678
Our darkness is never darkness in your sight;
the deepest night is clear as the daylight.

The Seventh Word Luke 23:46 Jim Reed
The Stone of Submission
Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "*Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.*" Having said this, he breathed his last.

Silent Meditation on the Seventh Word

Unison Prayer: Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take.

Hymn *What Wondrous Love Is This (v.4)* GTG 215
Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

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 and joy-full be
and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

The Shrouding of the Cross

All Depart in Silence

As you leave, you are invited to place your stone beneath the Christ Candle in front of the Cross on the Communion table leaving behind your worries, letting go of the weight, marking an encounter with God, and remembering the time Jesus spent in the grave until Easter morning.

Source: Credit to Erica Schemperr for Good Friday liturgy. Minor enhancement
by Pastor Eddie & Pam Jusino

WORSHIP TEAM

Pastor Eddie Jusino

Readers: Marge Egger, Ken McDyer, Silvia Ritchie,
Pam Jusino, Bonnie Ekas, Judy McDyer, Jim Reed

Music Director: David Libby

Soloist: Tina Marie Casamento

The Westminster Choir

AV Tech: Melissa Schrock and Blue Jade