



# Seward United Methodist Church

## Good Friday, April 7, 2023

Making disciples who make a difference in Seward and beyond.

### **Meditation on the Stations of the Cross Good Friday Service**

The order of service is adapted from a worship service created by Rev. Frank and Victoria Logue for King of Peace Episcopal Church in Kingsland, Georgia. It follows the 14 Traditional Stations of the Cross and includes items from the Book of Common Prayer, and original meditations and prayers by the Logues.

**Lights  
Greeter**

**Calvin Lavicky  
Kylee Josoff**

**Prelude**

**Sarah Rodocker**

### **Welcome and Explanation of Service**

(This will be a contemplative service with times of silence as we consider the stations of the cross)

**Hymn**

**Ah, Holy Jesus**

**UMH 289, v. 1-2**

### **Station 1 Jesus is Condemned to Death**

**Jackie Eberspacher**

#### *Meditation*

Betrayed. Deserted. Alone. Jesus stands before an unjust judge. Dry palm branches crackle under the feet of the crowd. Soldiers rain down punches and crown him with thorns. Jesus is condemned to die.

#### *Time of Silence*

#### **Prayer**

Lamb of God, who came to take away the sins of the world, you knew no sin and yet were sentenced to death. Assist me by your mercy to see the beam in my own eye and to remove it before I look to the speck in the eyes of others. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

### **Station 2 Jesus Takes Up His Cross**

**Katelyn Crook**

*Meditation* Splinters. Heavy, rough wood. The scent of the hill country. A single beam laid across the back of a carpenter. The crowd jeers. The procession to the place of the skull begins.

#### *Time of Silence*

#### **Prayer**

Obedient Lord, you asked each of us to take up our cross and follow you. Then you took up your own cross and led the way not just to Calvary, but to the empty tomb and beyond. Give us the courage to follow where you lead. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Station 3 Jesus Falls the First Time**

**Samantha Quist**

*Meditation*

Stumble. Waver. Collapse. Jesus' sweat mingles with the dust as he falls to the earth. The weight of the sins of the world on his shoulders. Barely able to stand. He cannot bear the cross without falling.

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Lion of Judah, you know our weaknesses, our temptations, and our failings. Support us by the power of the Holy Spirit that we do not stumble so as to fall away from you. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Hymn**

**O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

**UMH 286, v. 1**

**Station 4 Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother**

**JoEllen Axthelm**

*Meditation*

Mother and child. Madonna. Joseph has died. There is no angelic choir. No shepherds. No wise men. Gone are the gold, frankincense and myrrh. Mary sees her battered son through a veil of tears.

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Son of God, son of Mary, the crowd heaps scorn and turns the blade that pierces your mother's own soul. Grant us grace to see those in needless suffering to reach out to them showing love you wanted to show your mother Mary as you stumbled toward Calvary. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Station 5 The Cross Is Laid on Simon of Cyrene**

**Reagan Meyer**

*Meditation*

Stranger. Neighbor. Friend. Simon takes up your cross. In so doing takes up his own. Another innocent man joins the procession to Calvary.

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Suffering Servant, beaten beyond human semblance, through the Good Samaritan you taught us that everyone in need is our neighbor. Help us to follow in your way of love that we do not need to be compelled to take up the cross of another when they can not bear their burdens alone. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Station 6 A Woman Wipes the Face of Jesus**

**Addi Venekamp**

*Meditation*

Cloth. Sweat. Blood. Icon. Legend tells of a woman wiping Jesus' face and gaining an image of Christ painted in his blood on her cloth. In relieving the suffering of others we, too, find the face of Jesus.

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Emmanuel, God with us, you came as the image of God made flesh and we scorned you. May we seek not to do great things in your name, but to honor you with small acts of mercy done with great love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Hymn**

**O Sacred Head, Now Wounded**

**UMH 286, v. 2**

**Station 7 Jesus Falls a Second Time**

**Madison Green**

*Meditation*

Oppressed. Afflicted. Silently suffering. Simon carries the cross, yet Jesus cannot continue. He bears our infirmities and carries our sorrows. Crushed under their weight, Jesus falls once more.

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Compassionate Christ, all we like sheep have gone astray, turning each of us to our own way. Grant that when we fall into sin, we may return from going our own way to following in yours. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Station 8 Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem**

**Layne Luebke**

*Meditation*

Tears. Wailing. Daughters. Mothers. Grief. Women beat their breasts and mourn openly, for the Son of Man, but his concern is for them and their children in the days of woe yet to come.

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Son of Man, you told the women of Jerusalem to weep not for you but for themselves and their children. Give us the gift of tears for our own sins, that we may mourn the ways in which we fall short of the glory of God that we may truly repent and return to you. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Station 9 Jesus Falls a Third Time**

**Jacey Forbes**

*Meditation*

Brutalized. Dazed. Beyond strength. Now nearly on the Calvary's broad summit, Jesus collapses. Pole long set into the ground are silhouetted against gray clouds. Impatiently, Jesus is pulled up and shoved angrily toward his death.

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Loving Lord, you fell that we might rise and taught us that unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Help us to die to ourselves so that we might live to you and bear much fruit for your Kingdom. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Hymn** **Were You There** **UMH 288, v. 1**

**Station 10 Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments** **Kolten Green**

*Meditation*

King of Glory, King of Peace. Stripped bare. The crown of thorns is all that remains. One possession remains — his life. Holding nothing back, Jesus offers that last gift.

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Bread of Life, you came that we might have life and have it abundantly and you emptied yourself, taking the form of a slave that we might be free, and died that we might live. Give us the grace to be stripped bare of all that separates us from you. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Hymn** **Were You There** **UMH 288, v. 2**

**Station 11 Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross** **Keyan Schadwinkel**

*Meditation*

Cold metal. Warm flesh. Nails rip through tendon and muscle. Blood soaks into splintered wood. Jesus responds: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Merciful Redeemer, you declared your forgiveness from the cross, showing love to those who killed you and to the thief dying alongside you. Help us to know and count the cost of our forgiveness, bought at so great a price. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

**Hymn** **Were You There** **UMH 288, v. 3**

**Station 12 Jesus Dies on the Cross** **Caden Schadwinkel**

*Meditation*

Despised. Rejected. My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. From top to bottom the veil in the Temple is torn in two.

*Time of Silence*

**Prayer**

Lamb that was slain, as you cried out to your Father from the cross we learned how deep was your suffering, how complete was your sense of abandonment. Be present with us when others betray us or forsake us that we may find ourselves in your eyes and not theirs. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

## Station 13 The Body of Jesus Is Placed in the Arms of His Mother

Jacey Forbes

### *Meditation*

Mourning mother. Broken child. A sword of grief pierced her soul. Women surround her, but none can comfort her. Her name is bitterness.

### *Time of Silence*

### **Prayer**

Crucified Savior, you are resurrection and life and in your death and resurrection we who mourn find the peace and comfort your own mother lacked as your body came down from the cross. Help us to bring the hope of the resurrection to all who mourn. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

### **Hymn**

**Were You There**

**Solo, Wess Robotham**

## Station 14 Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

**Jackie Eberspacher**

### *Meditation*

Cold stone. A shroud. Darkness. Sabbath rest at last. The disciples gather in fear. A grain of wheat waits for spring.

### *Time of Silence*

### **Prayer**

Alpha and Omega, you are beginning and end. In death you conquered death so that even at the grave we praise your name. Help us to find you as the way, the truth, and the life and to lead others out of darkness and into your light. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

**ALL: Holy God, Holy and mighty, Holy immortal one, Have mercy on us.**

### **Hymn**

**Were You There**

**UMH 288, v. 5  
(Solo, Wess Robotham)**

### **Closing Prayer (in unison)**

Jesus Christ, you 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 do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. Amen.

## **Depart in Silence**

*The People of God Go Forth to Serve*

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