

Good Friday



A Community Good Friday Service
April 15, 2022
Noon



VIA CRUCIS: A DEVOTION FOR PASSIONTIDE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 15, 2022

Good Friday at Noon

Via Crucis is a devotion for Passiontide, offering a ruminative resource for prayer and reflection on Christ's death. It has a structure that is similar to the Stations of the Cross, used for many centuries.

The service contains a selection of deeply felt but restrained prayers by Eric Milner-White. These are interspersed with descriptive organ pieces by Philip Moore, which act as musical responses to the words, and range from meditative to more dramatic, harrowing moods. Together, the prayers and music combine to provide a beautifully fresh perspective on Lenten themes.

The choice of prayers by Eric Milner-White mirrors a selection of stations used in *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* for The Way of the Cross. When the prayers were first published in 1950, they were immediately acclaimed as a most inspiring contribution for use during Lent and Passiontide."

—From the Foreword to the work.

Permission for the presentation and livestreaming of this work is obtained directly from Encore Publications.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Prayers by Eric Milner-White and Music by Philip Moore

THE GATHERING

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Let us pray.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you would set your Passion, Cross and death between your judgement and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Grant to the living mercy and grace, to the dead pardon and rest, to your holy Church peace and harmony, and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, world without end. **Amen.**

The glorious Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ bring us to the joys of Paradise. **Amen.**

I . THE AGONY IN GETHSEMANE

The Rev. Marti Baumer

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

Be ever blessed, O Lord Christ, for your sovereign mercy; who, though assailed by loneliness, and a dread agony, did choose to die for our redemption, and make both earth and heaven rejoice; and now reigns, the First and the Last and the Living One, God, for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection - The Agony in Gethsemane

2. THE KISS OF JUDAS

The Rev. John Girard

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

O Lamb of God, who with guileless lips did gently touch those that were full of deceit: receive us your weak and unfaithful friends with like forbearance, and by the very kiss of your pardon convict us of our sin; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, world without end.

Musical Reflection - The Kiss of Judas

3. ART THOU THE CHRIST?

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Livingston

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who, bound and alone, did proclaim the Messiah before the High Priest and elders of your people: make plain, we ask you, the perpetual truth amid the transient show; and open our ears to hear, our eyes to perceive, and our lips to declare, that you with the Father and the Holy Spirit are one eternal and glorious God, world without end.

Musical Reflection - Art Thou the Christ?

4. THE DENIAL

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, look upon us with your eyes as you looked upon Peter in the hall, that with Peter we may repent and, by your same love, be forgiven.

O Lord Jesus Christ, turn your face from our sins, but turn it not from us, for your endless mercies' sake.

Musical Reflection - The Denial

5. PILATE WASHES HIS HANDS

Rev. Ahrens

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

Almighty God, the Judge of the whole earth: do not let us falter in courage nor turn from justice in the manner of Pontius Pilate; who when he saw that a tumult was made, washed his hands of just dealing, and delivered the guiltless to death, even your only Son our Savior Jesus Christ; who now lives and reigns in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God, for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection - Pilate Washes His Hands

6. THE SCOURGING

Rev. Baumer

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who was bruised for our iniquities, yet in your love and in your pity did redeem us: we ask you, restrain us from the sins that scourge you again, and others and ourselves no less: by thy merciful power, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection - The Scourging

7. BEARING THE CROSS

Rev. Girard

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

O Lord, lover of humankind, who, lifting the Cross upon your shoulder, bares in symbol and in truth all the sins of the world: strengthen us to heed not the tribulations which are but for a season, but to bear cheerfully your yoke unto the glory which passes not away; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, God, world without end.

Musical Reflection - Bearing the Cross

8. ST. SIMON OF CYRENE

Rev. Livingston

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that we on whose forehead has been set the sign of the Cross, may be ready and resolute to bear the Cross itself, in company with Simon of Cyrene and all your saints that have endured for you and with you; who now lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

Musical Reflection - St. Simon of Cyrene

OFFERTORY

Mission Invitation

Rev. Corzine

During the singing of the hymn, an offering will be taken. All monies collected will be given to **Amethyst House**, a long-term, gender-competent addiction and trauma treatment leader for homeless women and their families. To give online, please go to www.first-church.org/give.aspx. Thank you for your generosity.

Hymn

My song is love unknown

Love Unknown



1. My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to me,
 2. Christ came from heav - en's throne Sal - va - tion to be - stow,
 3. Some - times they strew His way, And His sweet prais - es sing,
 4. They rise, and needs will have My dear Lord made a - way;
 5. Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di - vine:



Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly be.
 But peo - ple scorned and none The longed - for Christ would know.
 Re - sound - ing all the way Ho - san - nas to their King.
 A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of life they slay.
 Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like Thine.



O who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?
 But O my Friend, My Friend in - deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
 Yet stead-fast He To suf - fering goes, That He His foes From thence might free.
 This is my Friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could glad - ly spend.

9. DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM

Rev. Corzine

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

Grant, O Lord God, that, as we your children look upon the Savior for our sakes ready to die, we may mourn not for him, whose pains were our glory, but for ourselves, whose shames are his wounds: and may repent unto you, who with the same your Son and the Holy Spirit are one God, holy and pitiful, for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection - Daughters of Jerusalem

10. THE NAILING

Rev. Ahrens

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who was silent when humanity nailed you to the Cross, and by pain did triumph over pain: pour thy Spirit on your servants who suffer, that in their quietness and courage you may triumph again, and redeem every sorrow: who lives and reigns in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God, world without end.

Musical Reflection - The Nailing

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, who from your silence upon the Cross did give to your Church Seven Words: grant that we may ponder them as the inexhaustible Gospel of your love and of the world's redemption; and learn likewise both by speech and silence to glorify our Creator in heaven; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, world without end.

Musical Reflection - Seven Words

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

Grant, O Lord God, that while the darkness comes up over the whole land to cover the dying Savior, your dear Son, we may behold the marvelous light that shines from his Cross, and be led by it to the kingdom, where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, God, world without end.

Musical Reflection - The Darkness

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

Blessed be your Name, O Jesus, Son of the most high God; blessed be the sorrow you suffered when your holy hands and feet were nailed to the tree; and blessed is your love when, the fullness of pain accomplished, you did give your soul into the hands of the Father; so by your Cross and precious Blood redeeming all the world, all longing souls departed and the numberless unborn; who now lives and reigns in the glory of the eternal Trinity, God for ever and ever.

Musical Reflection - The Death of the Lord Jesus

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: Because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.

Prayer

Gather us, O Author of mercy, round the body of your dear Son, slain and still; that by such proof and power of love we may be drawn into one living body of faith and praise, close to each other, close to him; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Musical Reflection - The Burial

Prayer

Bury our sins, O blessed Savior, in the grave; and make us to rise in the life of grace, and abide and advance in it, until we come to the city of light and joy; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, God, world without end.

Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom in the words our Savior taught us.

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Prayer

Almighty everlasting God, who has raised from earth unto heaven a mighty Tree, standing forever, where before the face of humanity hung a Man, stretched and nailed, rejected, dying and alone: O God, you are true and show only truth, let us not be afraid to suffer with him, die with him and be buried with him, that we may also be made alive with him and glorified together in the heavenly places; where now he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Closing Musical Reflection - The Crown

A bell is rung 33 times, once for each year of Jesus' earthly life.
We then depart in silence. You are invited to remain in meditation if you wish.

The holy vigil of the great three days (Triduum) continues until the time of the Resurrection.

 Participants

The Reverend Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *First Congregational Senior Minister*

The Reverend Emily Krause Corzine, *First Congregational Associate Minister*

The Reverend John Girard, *Broad Street United Methodist Senior Pastor*

The Reverend Dr. Nancy Livingston, *First Congregational member and retired minister*

The Reverend Marti Baumer, *First Congregational member and retired minister*

Kevin Jones, *Organist and First Congregational Minister of Music*

Peter Murray, Mike Kennedy, Janet Newcity, *Livestream Ministry Team*

Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

First Church is a Faith Community

† Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
† Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
† Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation

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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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www.first-church.org/Worship.aspx

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