

**Columbia  
United Church  
Of Christ**

**April 10, 2020**

**7:00 Zoom Worship**

**"Good Friday"**

*This Service is an adaptation of the Via Dolorosa, "The Way of Suffering."  
Each of the readings in the Via Dolorosa represent a reflection about the crucifixion  
and Jesus' love and desire for relationship shown most clearly in that event.*

Prelude

"Were You There"

**Amy Crousore**

Call to Worship

**Pastor Rick**

It has been a long night since we gathered in the Upper Room;  
The lessons of service and communal love seem so far away.

**Today, on the cross, our hearts are heavy.**

**Today, on the cross, our Savior dies.**

But where, O death is your victory? Where is the sting of the grave? This mortal body has  
put on immortality! Christ has died to save! God's victory will come through our Lord  
Jesus Christ!

**We gather to watch and wait; To celebrate the depth of love revealed here this day!**

**We gather in the midst of death, to worship the Lord of Life!**

**Come, Let us Worship God!**

Opening Hymn

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

*NCH #190*

Gathering Prayer

**Pete Jaberg**

**Creator God, it would have been easy for you to have deserted us when the going got  
tough. It would have been understandable had you chosen escape and sanctuary over  
crucifixion and death. But you remained true to the relationship we share; you stuck  
with us to the end. You chose to become one of us, and you saw that through. For that  
gift of relationship, we thank you. Gracious God remind us, when we suffer through the  
times of crucifixion and challenge in our own lives, times of social isolation and force  
quarantine, that relationship with you is our inheritance; that New Life and Resurrection  
are our promises. In Jesus name, Amen**

Children's Time`

"Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"

**Pastor Rick**

**Jesus loves me, this I know; for the Bible tells me so!**

**Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so!**

Gospel Lesson:

Mark 15:16-20

**Pat Forward**

*Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's  
headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple  
cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began  
saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him,  
and knelt down in homage to him. After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak  
and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.*

The Via Dolorosa (*The Way of Suffering*)

Station One: Jesus is condemned to death

Claire Kespohl

**God of compassion; when have we seen you hungry, sick, in prison, without clothing, or alone and not stopped to help? Help us to remember how you came to us, and how we have so often responded to your coming with words of condemnation; or with silence. Grant us all the grace to reach out instead with words and deeds of love and justice.**

Station Two: Jesus accepts the cross

James Melton

**God of Love; you accepted the cross out of love, to teach us how to bear all of life's burdens. Inspire us to work together as one family, bearing each other's burdens, and shouldering the individual crosses we each must bear in life.**

Station Three: Jesus falls for the first time

Brent Marcks

**God of the meek and lowly; so much of our wickedness rises out of our selfishness, cowardice, fear and indifference. So many oppressions are allowed to occur because we know what we must do and yet we fail to do it. Forgive us; and forgive all who stand alongside and watch evil have its way.**

Meditation: "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

Hope Keithahn & Hazel Keithahn (Violin & Cello) with Amy Crousore, Accompanist

Station Four: Jesus meets his mother

Melba Shaffer

**God of Mercy; help us to remember Mary, as she stood alone in grief. Help us to remember all the other Mothers of this world when they suffer as well. Help us to feed the hungry children, quench the thirst of those in need, provide education and advancement for all; so that no mother anywhere will have to suffer the grief that Mary did that day. May we be a true source of strength and comfort to all mothers grieving, as we are strengthened and comforted by You.**

Station Five: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross

Doug Privitt

**God of Grace; we thank you for the strangers in our midst, who often unknowingly, even unwillingly, show us what to do and how to do it. Open our eyes and hearts. Enlarge our vision, that we may be ones who help you and others bear unbearable loads.**

Station Six: Jesus falls a second time

Connie Loveless

**God of justice; you have often been treated unjustly by us and others as we shrug off the challenges you place before us. We have shrugged off the burdens of others so carelessly, saying that it is not our problem. We have neglected mercy and loving kindness, thinking only of ourselves. Please forgive us.**

Hymn: "What Wondrous Love is This"

NCH #223

Station Seven: Jesus falls a third time

Adam Veteto

**God of suffering; we know that whatever suffering we endure it is not equal to the suffering you endured that day. Help us to remember that whatever pain we go through, you felt it first; and that whatever we must suffer, you understand; because you have been there. The pain of that day allows us to always turn to you in our pains; because we know that you will always understand.**

Station Eight: Jesus is stripped of his garments

Judi Privitt

**God of abundance; we reach out and grasp greedily for so much, searching for what will satisfy. We do not know how to let go of useless things and let You in. Even when we want to bring healing and wholeness, we get caught up in greed and selfishness and deeds that bring the opposite.**

Station Nine: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

Sue Ann Schaefer

**God of lonely silence, we have often participated in judging and condemning others. Forgive us for the crucifixion events in which we participate in our lives; and open us up to the compassion which you offer.**

Meditation

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Kristin & Adam Veteto *a Capella*

Station Ten: Jesus dies on the cross

Jo Ellen Grace

**“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” The Psalmist proclaims his faith in this Psalm, which turns from lament into praise. Help us have faith in you as well, loving God; that our cries of lament may also turn into cries of praise.**

Station Eleven: Jesus is taken down from the cross

Paula Wilson

**God of the living and the dead; our hearts are wrung out with grief at your love, poured out for us and for all that day long ago. Our hearts weep for Mary, holding your lifeless body. Remind us that even in death, eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor human imagination envisioned what you have prepared for us as we transition from this life to the next. Wrap us in compassion, God of love.**

Station Twelve: The burial of Jesus

Ally Jaberg

**Loving God; you loved us so much that you were willing to suffer and die; not for some bloody transaction, but as a loving revelation. Through this crucifixion event, you reveal to us just how much you love us. This crucifixion event brings us closer to you, and brings you closer to us. We humbly thank you for your constant presence that day; so that we may get closer to you.**

**We unite now, loving God, in the prayer you taught us...**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Gospel Lesson: Luke 23:44-49

Kennedy Lucas

*It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.*

Brief Reflection

“Good Friday Love and Easter Hope”

Pastor Rick

Meditation

“Were You There”

Hope Keithahn & Hazel Keithahn (Violin & Cello) with Amy Crousore, Accompanist

The Light of Christ is Crucified

The Toll of the Bell