

Silver Falls United Church

Good Friday, April 22, 2011



PERSONAL PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Lord, today we face the toughest challenge of all. Give us the strength we need to see us through this dark time so that we may rejoice with you on the third day and ever after.
Amen

Organ Prelude

Introit

O Come and Mourn With Me Awhile

Verse 1

VU 136

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: Come to this place apart to pray;
God, who has given us life, meets us here.

**All: Will God be revealed to us on this dark day?
Has not God turned away and forsaken us?**

One: Come, all who are weary and discouraged,
God, in whom you have trusted, has not deserted you.

**One: Will God hear our cries and replenish our strength?
Who can believe in the midst of such sorrow?**

Prayer of Approach (responsively)

One: Good Friday God: look graciously, we pray, on us your people for whom your Beloved, Jesus, was willing to be betrayed, to be laid open to the powers of this world, to suffer death on a cross.

All: Grant us your presence on this day of his passion, that we might be with Him, through death to resurrection. We pray in the name of our crucified Saviour. Amen.

Opening Hymn Beneath The Cross Of Jesus

VU 135

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God of grief and of suffering, this Friday seems ‘good’ for all the wrong reasons.

Be with us in these hours as we gather in the shadow of the cross of Christ and hear again the story of death and the sounds of burial.

This is not where we would choose to be, O God, brought face to face with this symbol of death and instrument of torture.

Forgive us, where we have sought to avoid such times: where we have ignored the cross or denied our own pain, or turned our backs on the sufferings of others.

Strengthen us to be here today, that we may know that you are here with us.

You know the ways of the world, O God: you have been there; you are here; you have loved and cried and lived and died to be with us, to comfort us, to forgive us and to free us.

For this we give thanks. This we can call ‘good.’ Amen.

Words of Assurance (responsively)

One: It is through God’s mercy and grace that we will be brought from this darkest of days into glorious light.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Hymn: What Wondrous Love Is This

Verses 1,2 & 4

VU 147

THE WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, open our ears to hear your Word, our lips to proclaim your truth, and our eyes this day to see your love for us through this journey to the cross. Amen.

THE PASSION STORY:

THE SUFFERING AND GLORY OF THE SERVANT:

Reading: Isaiah 52:13 - 53: 12

Psalm 22 Part 1

VU 744

THE BETRAYAL

Reading: John 18 1-12a

Pause for reflection

Response:

One: Lord, Jesus, crucified for us

All: You gave your life that we might live.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Hymn Go To Dark Gethsemane **(remain seated)** Verse 1 **VU**
133

THE DENIAL

Reading: John 18:12b-27

Pause for reflection

Response:

One: Lord, Jesus, crucified for us

All: You gave your life that we might live.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Hymn Bitter was the Night – Verses 1,2,3,7 **VU**
132

MEDITATION

THE INTERROGATION

Reading: John 18: 28-40

Pause for reflection

Response:

One: Lord, Jesus, crucified for us

All: You gave your life that we might live.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Hymn: Go To Dark Gethsemane (**remain seated**) Verse 2 **VU 133**

THE SENTENCE

Reading: John 19-1-16a

Pause for reflection

Response:

One: Lord, Jesus, crucified for us

All: You gave your life that we might live.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Solo – “He Was Despised” from the Messiah by G.F. Handel
Signa Love ; Mezzo Soprano

THE CRUCIFIXION

Reading: John 19: 16b-22

Pause for reflection

Response:

One: Lord, Jesus, crucified for us

All: You gave your life that we might live.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Hymn: Go To Dark Gethsemane (**Remain seated**) Verse 3 **VU 133**

THE CASTING OF LOTS

Reading: John 19: 23-27

Pause for reflection

Response:

One: Lord, Jesus, crucified for us

All: You gave your life that we might live.

CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

THE DEATH

Reading: John 19: 28-37

Pause for reflection

Response:

One: Lord, Jesus, crucified for us

All: You gave your life that we might live.

CHRIST CANDLE EXTINGUISHED

Hymn: O Come and Mourn With Me Awhile Verses 1 & 4 **VU 136**

THE BURIAL

Reading: John 19: 38-42

Pause for reflection

Response:

One: Lord, Jesus, crucified for us

All: You gave your life that we might live.

Hymn: When I Survey The Wondrous Cross **VU 149**

SENDING OUT

FINAL WORDS

One: “It is finished” Jesus said, but we know that the journey does not end here with only suffering and death.

All: Through our tears we acknowledge that your death is just the beginning for us.

Give us strength to see this journey through. Amen

*****When you are ready to leave the Sanctuary, please proceed down the center aisle and drop your nail into the container at the foot of the Cross. Then exit via the foyer.**

PLEASE LEAVE IN SILENCE

Announcements:

Holy Saturday Vigil from 9:00am -7:00pm. There will be a short prayer service at 6:30pm on Saturday.

HOLY SATURDAY VIGIL

Even though we know the disciples loved Jesus dearly, it is evident that they all misunderstood his purpose and that they all forsook him when he needed them most. When Jesus died he was almost alone, his cause apparently defeated and his followers scattered.

Holy Saturday is a day of uncertainty. It is a day of sitting with the disciples in their grief, confusion and loneliness. It is also a time we explore our own faith in similar circumstances. Can we accept that the stone has been rolled over the tomb's opening? Do we have the courage to face our deepest fears – our beloved leader has died and our community no more? Are we willing to explore our own losses and to let those discoveries be seed for our own spiritual transformation?

From 9am – 7pm on Holy Saturday, Glen View United will be open to provide sanctuary. You are invited to come and stay for a while in the silence for as short or as long a time as you need. It is intended as a place for your own personal prayer.

A gatekeeper will greet you. Should you require some direction there will be printed scripture suggestions and written guides on hand to assist you in your meditation. Soft music will be playing and throughout the worship area there will be images and symbols to help you connect with the events of Holy Week and the thoughts and emotion of the day. There will be cushions and throws. Hot cups of herbal teas will be available. Reverend Kathi will be available at various times for private and quiet conversations but for the most part there will be just be the silence of Holy Saturday.

On Easter Sunday, April 24, please come and share with us the “Sonrise” Service at the Res at 6:30am, followed by a pancake breakfast at Silver Falls Church at 9:00am. Everyone is welcome.