

GOOD FRIDAY

SEEKING GOD'S WAYS LETTING GO OF OUR WAYS AS WE SEEK GOD'S WAYS

Focus Statement: As we seek God's way, we journey with Jesus to the cross, and are invited to let go of our ways.

Prelude

Call to Worship ~ VT #896 *modified*

God of the foolish cross,

You are not the saviour we expect.

Your ways are not our ways

Your thoughts are not our thoughts

Your wisdom makes no sense to us.

We are happy to join the crowd,

Waving branches,

But not so sure we want to follow you

Into temple courts

Into the upper room

Into the garden of Gethsemane

To the foot of the cross.

Forgive our false assumptions

Clarify our clouded vision.

Free us to live into the foolishness

Of your self-giving ways.

**Bloomington Mennonite Church
Friday, April 15, 2022**

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*Stations of the Cross from *Leader* magazine - modified by Dave Rogalsky 2015, 2021 and changed again by Zac Klassen, 2022 to accord with different scripture references and theme change from latest *Leader*.

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Welcome and Introduction to the Stations of the Cross*

Hymn VT #627 Bleibt Hier (Stay with me)

Jesus prays in the garden (Letting go of Security)

~ Luke 22:39-46 Gloria M. & Zac K.

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

"Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done."

Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

"Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Hymn VT #318 'Tis Midnight, and on Olive's Brow

Prayer

The Garden was a new
Desert of Temptation for You
"Pray that you may not come into
the time of trial,"

That's all you asked of us, Lord.

Instead of praying, we slept.

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Did the Devil tempt you again with a way out?

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

You prayed to God:

"Father, if you are willing...yet, not my will but yours be done."

Again, we slept, grieving our loss of security.

The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.

You saw that the hour was at hand.

You saw that your final journey had commenced.

Lord Jesus, help us to walk in your ways.

Open our hands for service in your kingdom.



Jesus is betrayed and arrested (Letting go of Fear)

~ Luke 22:47-54a Stu W., Lois W., Zac K.

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him,

"Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, **"Lord, should we strike with the sword?"**

Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

"No more of this!"

And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

"Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!"

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

Hymn VT #596 Don't Be Afraid

Prayer

Jesus, out of fear we so easily turn to violence.
We ready our hands for the sword. You tell us to
put our sword away.
We strike when threatened.

You extend your hands for healing.

Lord Jesus, help us to walk in your ways.

Open our hands for service in your kingdom.



Jesus is questioned by the High Priest Annas **(Letting go of our Power over others)**

~ John 18:13-14, 19-24 Dorothy I, Greg C., Zac K.

First, they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people... Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered,

"I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard

what I said to them; they know what I said."

When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying,

"Is that how you answer the high priest?"

Jesus answered,

"If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Hymn VT #434 O God, Our Refuge

Prayer

Jesus, your ways and your teachings
Are powerful because
they empower others
In a world where people
abuse power for selfish gain
Empower us to courageously minister with
and for the good of others
That God's will may be done
on earth as in heaven.

***Lord Jesus, help us to walk in your ways.
Open our hands for service in your kingdom.***



Jesus is condemned by Pilate

(Letting go of our attempts to Earn what God gives freely)

~ John 18:28-19:1-28 Sarah F., Paul F., Zac K., Linda W.

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Pass-over. So Pilate went out to them and said,

"What accusation do you bring against this man?"

They answered,

"If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

Pilate said to them,

"Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law."

The Jews replied,

"We are not permitted to put anyone to death."

(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

"Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered,

"Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?"

Pilate replied,

"I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered,

"My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

Pilate asked him,

"So you are a king?"

Jesus answered,

"You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Pilate asked him,

"What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them,

"I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

They shouted in reply,

"Not this man, but Barabbas!"

Now Barabbas was a bandit.

Hymn VT #330 Ah, Holy Jesus

Prayer

Jesus, you refused the temptation

To earn your kingdom.

You taught us

that your kingdom and glory

Do not grow by competing

with the world's kingdoms

Like a tree nurtured by God

Your kingdom comes

as a gift received

Grown in the soil of truth

and humble service

Lord Jesus, help us to walk in your ways.

Open our hands for service in your kingdom.



Jesus is scourged, crowned with thorns, crucified, and stripped of his clothes (Letting go of our scarcity mindset)

~ John 19:1-3; John 19:16b-17; John 19:23-27 Graham D., Pauline B., Zac K.

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying,

"Hail, King of the Jews!"

and striking him on the face... So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha... When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another,

"Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it."

This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did. 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.

Hymn VT #328 Mary, Woman Weeping

Prayer

Jesus, the powers of empire
tried to take everything from you.
They even cast lots for your clothes.
In their false scarcity-mindset,
they feared your abundance.
But even in your agony,
you offered gifts,
of mutual care between your mother
and your beloved disciple.
As we stand at the foot of the cross
Bind us together
in the abundance of your love.

**Lord Jesus, help us to walk in your ways.
Open our hands for service in your kingdom.**



Jesus promises paradise to the crucified thief
(Letting go of exceptionalism)

~ Luke 23:39-43

Stu & Lois W., Paul F., Zac K.

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.”

Jesus replied,

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

Hymn VT #327 Jesus, Remember Me

Prayer

Jesus, even as you were pushed out
and excluded,

Even as you were counted
as a transgressor

You embraced the crucified thief,
Promising him the feast of paradise.

Help us to open ourselves to others
Counting those the world pushes
to the margins, as beloved friends.

Lord Jesus, help us to walk in your ways.

Open our hands for service in your kingdom.



Jesus dies

~ Luke 23:44-49

Dorothy I, Greg C., Zac K.

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.

Flame of the Christ Candle is extinguished (1 MIN SILENCE)

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.

Hymn VT #308 How Can We Worship Caesar’s Cross

Prayer

O Lord, our lands too are covered in darkness.

We hear the cries of the crucified today,

The innocent who are pushed onto the crosses of today.

Instead of standing in the crowd, watching the spectacle

Help us to take up our cross and follow you

Lord Jesus, help us to walk in your ways.

Open our hands for service in your kingdom.

Jesus is buried

~ John 19:38-42 Graham D.

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Hymn VT #329 Were You There (vv.1-2, 4-5)

Closing prayer

Departing in Silence