

## Worship Service: GOOD FRIDAY

### Helpful Elements:

Scarlet veil to cover the cross  
Extra music: "Were You There" (see p. 5)

**Welcome:** Welcome, and thank you for joining our service today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'll be leading our worship time. Today is Good Friday, the day we remember Jesus Christ's crucifixion and burial. In a shift from our regular services together, this is a somber and serious time as we look at the pain, suffering, and death of our Lord. We intentionally enter into a holy space of sorrow that makes the joy of Easter morning that much sweeter.

You'll notice that our table today is bare, symbolizing the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus' clothes before he was crucified. The cross remains, but it is covered in a scarlet veil to symbolize his blood shed for the sins of all mankind, including us.

Please pray with me as we open our time together.

**Opening Prayer:** Heavenly Father, draw us into your love and mercy as we remember the suffering and death of your son, Jesus Christ. Forgive us for so often ignoring or passing over the painful cost of your grace to us. We glorify you, that your purposes were accomplished through Christ dying for our sins, once for all. In your name we pray. Amen.

### Opening Hymn: Doxology, p. 1

**First Reading:** Psalm 22: 1-20. You'll notice that the first words are exactly the words Jesus used on the cross, one of several parallels to the crucifixion.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

<sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.

<sup>3</sup>Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>In you our fathers trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

<sup>5</sup>To you they cried and were rescued;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.  
<sup>6</sup>But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.  
<sup>7</sup>All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;  
<sup>8</sup>“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”  
<sup>9</sup>Yet you are he who took me from the womb;  
you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.  
<sup>10</sup>On you was I cast from my birth,  
and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.  
<sup>11</sup>Be not far from me,  
for trouble is near,  
and there is none to help.  
<sup>12</sup>Many bulls encompass me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;  
<sup>13</sup>they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.  
<sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;  
<sup>15</sup>my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.  
<sup>16</sup>For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet—  
<sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;  
<sup>18</sup>they divide my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

### **Hymns:**

**Softly and Tenderly, p. 7**

**Jesus Loves Me, p. 6**

Now we begin the story of Jesus’ betrayal, suffering, and death, as recorded in the gospel of Matthew. We start with the Last Supper, the Passover meal, during which Judas betrayed him. Then we move into the story of Peter’s denial, Jesus’

suffering, and then his crucifixion and burial on a Friday, Good Friday, which is why we have this service today.

### **Second Reading: Matthew 26**

<sup>20</sup> When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. <sup>21</sup> And as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup> And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup> He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me." <sup>24</sup> The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born." <sup>25</sup> Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so." ...

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with them to a [garden] called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup> And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." <sup>39</sup> And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ...

<sup>47</sup> [A little later,] while he was still speaking [to the disciples], Judas came, ...and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; seize him." <sup>49</sup> And he came up to Jesus at once and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" And he kissed him. <sup>50</sup> Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you came to do." Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him.

### **Hymn: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing, p. 12**

### **Third Reading: Matthew 26**

<sup>59</sup> Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, <sup>60</sup> but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward<sup>61</sup> and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" <sup>62</sup> And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" <sup>63</sup> But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." <sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." <sup>65</sup> Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup> What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." <sup>67</sup> Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, <sup>68</sup> saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

<sup>69</sup>Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." <sup>70</sup>But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." <sup>71</sup>And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." <sup>72</sup>And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." <sup>73</sup>After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." <sup>74</sup>Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

## **Hymn: Amazing Grace, p. 15**

### **Fourth Reading: Matthew 27**

<sup>15</sup>Now at the [Passover] feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. <sup>16</sup>And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. <sup>17</sup>So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" <sup>18</sup>For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ... <sup>20</sup>Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. <sup>21</sup>The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." <sup>22</sup>Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>23</sup>And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" <sup>24</sup>So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." <sup>25</sup>And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" <sup>26</sup>Then he released for them Barabbas, and having [flogged] Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

<sup>27</sup>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. <sup>28</sup>And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup>and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>30</sup>And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. <sup>31</sup>And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

## **Hymns:**

**My Jesus, I Love Thee, p. 17**

**I Need Thee Every Hour, p. 15**

### **Fifth Reading: Matthew 27**

<sup>32</sup>As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup>they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. <sup>35</sup>And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. <sup>36</sup>Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup>And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." <sup>38</sup>Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. <sup>39</sup>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." <sup>41</sup>So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup>"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ...

<sup>45</sup>Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. <sup>46</sup>And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"<sup>47</sup>And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." <sup>48</sup>And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup>But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup>And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

### **Hymns:**

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, p. 19**

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus, p. 20**

### **Sixth Reading: Matthew 27**

<sup>57</sup>When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup>He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. <sup>59</sup>And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud <sup>60</sup>and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. <sup>61</sup>Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

### **Hymns:**

**The Old Rugged Cross, p. 23**

**Were You There? [call out lyrics; see last page]**

### **Closing Prayer: A Prayer of Confession<sup>1</sup>**

You call us to be your voices in this world  
and we stay silent.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers\\_Maundy\\_Thursday.htm](http://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers_Maundy_Thursday.htm)

You call us to be your hands in this world  
and we keep them hidden.  
You call us to be your feet in this world  
and we go our own way.  
When we meet those who are doubting  
and say nothing, forgive us.  
When we meet those who need your touch  
and do nothing, forgive us.  
When we are called to take up your cross  
and carry nothing, forgive us.  
Breathe life into these bones  
bring freedom to these lives  
that we might declare  
with heart and soul and voice  
that you are our Lord and our God. Amen.

**That concludes our service today, as we wait until we meet again on Easter Sunday. Thank you for coming. Amen.**

## **Were You There**

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh ... sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (repeat per pattern)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (repeat per pattern)

*[stop here for Good Friday]*

Were you there on that glorious Easter morn?  
Were you there on that glorious Easter morn?  
Oh ... sometime it makes me feel like shoutin', shoutin', shoutin'  
Were you there on that glorious Easter morn?