

Order of Worship April 15, 2022  
Gathering Music

*Welcome*

*Pastor Barbara Macfie*

*Call To Worship*

*Elder*

*L:* Today God makes common cause with our human suffering.

*C:* **We read the Scriptures, sing the hymns, feel the feelings of the day Christ died.**

*L:* Suffering is not rational. It has no answers.

*C:* **But in the cross God meets us in our suffering.**

*L:* From this day forward we know that there is nowhere we can go where God is not with us.

*Hymn            The Old Rugged Cross*

***1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
the emblem of suffering and shame;  
and I love that old cross where the dear ones  
stand best for a world of lost sinners  
as slain.***

***Refrain:***

***So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
and exchange it someday for a crown.***

***2 O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
has a wondrous attraction for me;  
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above  
to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]***

***3 In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
a wondrous beauty I see,  
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
to pardon and sanctify me. [Refrain]***

***4 To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,  
its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,  
where his glory forever I'll share. [Refrain]***

### **PREPARING FOR THE WORD**

#### ***Call to Confession***

*Elder*

The promise of our faith is that if we call on the name of the Lord, our God will remember our sin no more. Therefore, let us confess our wrongdoing.

**Prayer of Confession.** [This brief litany is modeled after the Column Reproaches of the Cross, a Good Friday tradition that can be traced to the Middle Ages.]

L: The cross that held the Savior of the World.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy on us.**

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L: The cross that held the Savior of the World.

**C: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal one, have mercy on us.**

L: My people, my people, why have you forsaken me? Answer me! I delivered you from captivity through the water of baptism; but you handed me over to my captors, giving me up to die; and you have made a cross for your Savior.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: I fed you in the wilderness with the bread of life from heaven; but you are consumed with desire, biting and devouring one another; and you have made a cross for your Savior.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: I claimed you as my family, as branches of my vine; but you cut off my chosen ones, spilling innocent blood; and you have made a cross for your Savior.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: I came to be your light, to overcome the darkness; but you remain in the shadows, hiding your light from the world; and you have made a cross for your Savior.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: I gave you the keys to my realm and welcomed you inside; but you turn to strangers, closing the doors that I open; and you have made a cross for your Savior.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: I offered you my peace and clothed you with compassion; but you divide my garments, tearing apart what I design; and you have made a cross for your Savior.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: I sent my Holy Spirit to empower you with grace; but you trust your own devices, squandering my good gifts; and you have made a cross for your Savior.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

L: I came to dwell among you as the Word made flesh; but you ignore neighbors in need, failing to recognize my face; and you have made a cross for your Savior.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

### ***Words of Forgiveness***

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

Take heart, for our Lord Jesus Christ, the son of God, understands our human experience, felt the depth of our pain and sympathizes with our weakness. He deals gently with the ignorant and the wayward and is the source of our eternal salvation. O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! If Jesus Christ dwells in you, the Spirit of God will be your life and the grace of God will be your righteousness. And if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, then God, who raised Jesus from the dead, will also give life to your mortal bodies. Friends, this is the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

### ***Gloria Patri***

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.**

## **Hearing the Word**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

*Pastor*

“I came to testify to the truth,” the Lord said. “What is truth?” We reply. Open our hearts to know your truth, Lord. Speak your truth to us now. Amen

### ***New Testament Reading:***

John 18:28 - 19:30

*Pastor*

**28** Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you. Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.” “But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?” “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?” They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

### ***Homily***

**HYMN**

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

**GTG #223**

### **Jesus Sentenced to Be Crucified**

*Pastor*

19 1. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the

face. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man! As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

## Homily

***HYMN***

***WereYouThere GTG#228***

**The Crucifixion of Jesus**

Pastor

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: jesus of nazareth, the king of the jews. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it. This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.”[a] So this is what the soldiers did. Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman,[b] here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

**The Death of Jesus**

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. 3When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

## **Homily**

### **Responding to the Word**

***HYMN***

***Ah, Holy Jesus***

***CTG #218***

***Prayers of Intercession*** [A time of silence follows each petition]

Pastor Norton Pastor Gilmore, Pastor Macfie

Redeeming God, we cry out to you for the suffering of the world.

We pray for the church, both near and far, that we may always be on the side of the oppressed and not the oppressors.

We pray for the gift of faith, that we may put our trust in you, even in times of suffering.

We pray for those who suffer; that they may feel your presence with them.

We pray for those who care for those who struggle and for those who are dying, that, through us, you may strengthen them in their service.

We pray for those who mourn, that they will feel your comfort as they kneel at the foot of the cross.

We pray for all who wrestle with their faith, struggling to know if you are with them, that your face will not be hidden from them.

We pray for all the families and all the actions of the earth, that they shall remember and turn toward you, and find peace.

ALL: We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Amen.

***Sending***

[Traditionally the blessing is omitted on Good Friday since the service continues on Easter Sunday. The service will close with the Stripping of the Altar, as parakeets, the Cross, Bible, are carried out of the sanctuary in silence. Please depart in silence when Stripping of the Altar is complete.]