

**Good Friday**  
**Jesus, Seven Last Words**  
**Date: April 7, 2023**  
**4:30 p.m.**

**Prayer of Preparation**

Arapaho, Native American

*Great Spirit have pity on me, Great Spirit have pity on me;  
I am crying for thirst;  
All is gone - I have nothing to eat, all is gone - I have nothing to eat.*

**Gathering in the Presence of God**

As you walk into the sanctuary there is a basket of stones please, pick up a stone, hold and rub the stone throughout the service. At the conclusion of the service you will be invited to approach the Communion Table and place the stone beneath the Christ Candle and the Cross leaving behind your worries, letting go of the weight, marking an encounter with God, and remembering the time Jesus spent in the grave until Easter morning.

**Gathering Music**

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**Welcome**

Pastor Eddie

**Call to Worship**

*(based on Lamentations 1:12)*

All you who pass this way  
    **look and see the shadow of sin.**  
All you who pass this way  
    **look and see the weight of the world.**  
All you who pass this way  
    **look and see the suffering of our Savior.**  
All you who pass this way  
    **look and see the sorrow of Jesus Christ.**  
Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.

**Hymn**

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

GTG 221

**& Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**The First Word - Stone of Condemnation** - Luke 23:33-34    Adele H. Trout

When they came to that place called "The Skull," they crucified Jesus there, with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

**Unison Prayer: Forgiving Christ, when the world condemns us, when wrong is done to us, when we carry the weight of things that are too much to forgive, come alongside us in the darkness and give us the grace to be forgiven and forgiving.**

**Silent Meditation on the First Word**

**Song Response:**

*Were You There* (v. 1)

GTG 228

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

**The Second Word - The Stone of Separation** - Luke 23:39-43    Deb Norton

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." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**Unison Prayer: Reconciling Christ, we are weighed down by sin and separation, a world that is not at peace, a people who are not whole. You**

**reached out to the thief, you welcomed him to God's side. Come alongside us in the darkness and bring grace and peace to everything that is broken.**

### **Silent Meditation on the Second Word**

**Taize Song Response:**                      *Jesus Remember Me*                      GTG 227

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom

**The Third Word - The Stone of Sorrow - John 19:25-27**                      Jim Reed

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.

**Unison Prayer: Loving Jesus, we carry the weight of the people we love. We are concerned for their sorrows and suffering. Our care for them is deep, and sometimes there is not much we can do. Come alongside us in the darkness and cradle the ones we love in your strong hands.**

### **Silent Meditation on the Third Word**

**Song Response:**                      *Where You There (v. 2)*                      GTG 228

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

## **The Fourth Word - The Stone of Despair - Mark 15:33-34**

Pam Jusino

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Unison Prayer:** Lord Jesus Chrsit, you know what it is to feel that God is far away. You know what it is to call out for God's presence. Come alongside us in the darkness and help us call out for God.

### **Silent Meditation on the Fourth Word**

#### **Song Response:**

*Where You There (v. 3)*

GTG 228

Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

## **The Fifth Word - The Stone of Suffering - John 19:28**

Faith Duncan

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty."

**Unison Prayer:** Suffering Savior, in all our thirst, in all our sickness, in all our longing, in all our pain, you are there. Come alongside us in the darkness and walk with us through all our suffering.

### **Silent Meditation on the Fifth Word**

#### **Song Response:**

*Where You There (v.4)*

GTG 228

Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (Were you there?)

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

**The Sixth Word - The Stone of Death - John 19:29-30**

Nancy Brock

A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

**Unison Prayer:** Dearest Jesus, even in death you are with us. When we mourn, when we are afraid, when we come to our own end, you have been there too. Come alongside us in the darkness and carry us through death to life.

**Silent Meditation on the Sixth Word**

**Song Response:**

*Were You There* (v.5)

GTG 228

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

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

O! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

**The Seventh Word - The Stone of Submission - Luke 23:46 David Norton**

Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

**Unison Prayer:** Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take.

**Silent Meditation on the Seventh Word**

**Soloist:**

*What Wondrous Love Is This* v.4

And when from death I'm Free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;

and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy-full be

and through eternity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

and through eternity I'll sing on.

**The Shrowing of the Cross**  
**All Depart in Silence**

As you leave, you are invited to place your stone beneath the Christ Candle in the back, leaving behind your worries, letting go of the weight, marking an encounter with God, and remembering the time Jesus spent in the grave until Easter morning.

Source: Credit to Erica Schemperr for Good Friday liturgy. Minor enhancement by Pastor Eddie