

Good Friday Service
April 18, 2014, 10:30 am

Quiet Time

(individual preparation for worship)

A Call to Worship

Opening Prayer

L: Good Friday is a difficult part of our faith.

P: It is a day of darkness and death.

L: A day that seemed like the sun would never shine.

P: What would it have been like....

L: to have been there among the angry crowds yelling "crucify!"?

P: To have heard the blow of the hammer on the nails?

L: To have seen Jesus pierced on the side?

P: To have been there when he breathed his last breath?

This Good Friday, we are invited to experience the darkest day of the year.

Anthem - "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

-Intermediate Choir

The Seven Last Words of Jesus

The First Word: Luke 23:33-34 *"Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing."*

Meditation on the First Word

Hymn - "Were you there" vs. 1,2

The Second Word: Luke 23:39-43 *"I tell you this: today you will be in Paradise with me."*

Meditation on the Second Word

Say together: VU# 140 "Grief and Love"

Hymn - 148 "Jesus, Remember Me" (3x)

The Third Word: John 19:25-27 To his mother, *"Woman, here is your son."* To the disciple he loved, *"Here is your mother."*

Meditation on the Third Word

Anthem - "Christ is our Brother"

-Intermediate Choir

The Fourth Word: Mark 15:33-34 *"Eloi, eloi, lama sabach-thani?"* which means *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"*

Meditation on the Fourth Word

Hymn - 149 "When I survey the wondrous cross" vs. 1,3,4

The Fifth Word: John 19:28 *"I thirst."*

Meditation on the Fifth Word

Anthem - "Cross of Sorrow"

- Intermediate Choir

The Sixth Word: John 19:29-30 *"It is accomplished."*

Meditation on the Sixth Word

Hymn - The Old Rugged Cross vs. 1,2

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross,
where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.

**R: 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 some day for a crown.**

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**

The Seventh Word: Luke 23:46 *"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."*

Meditation on Seventh Word

Silent Meditation

Closing Prayer

One: Let us pray:

All: This has been the day of the end of hope. This Son of God, this Man of Peace has been crucified and lies in a tomb, blocked by a stone. Is there no victory over death? Is not the love of God stronger than death? In the shadow of Christ's suffering, we wait. O God, grant mercy and grace to us; roll the stone of the world's despair away. Through your love and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, give us the assurance of your Kingdom, on earth as in heaven, now and forever. Amen.

Extinguishing the Christ Candle

One: Let us pray together:

All: As we extinguish the flame, we acknowledge the pain and sorrow we each have experienced, the pain and sorrow we each have caused; we acknowledge our deep yearning for healing, wholeness and new life, and we remember the death of the one called Jesus of Nazareth.

Please stay as long as you wish in silent meditation, and then depart in silence to meet with others downstairs for refreshments. Thank you for coming to this special Holy Week service.

TO PONDER: The cost of a tender sensitivity is suffering, but the fruit is joy.

Many thanks to the Intermediate Choir, to Marilyn McComb, and to those helping with refreshments.

Source for today's service: Rev. Richard J. Fairchild, 1999, 2000 copyright.

We hope to see you at one of our Easter morning services:

Sunrise Service – Kilsyth 7 am
Keady – 9:45 am
Kilsyth – 11 am

Did you know?

Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 20, the nominal date of the Spring Equinox. Easter Sunday can fall on any date from March 22 to April 25. The year-to-year sequence is so complicated that it takes 5.7 million to repeat. Eastern Orthodox churches sometimes celebrate Easter on the same day as the rest of Christendom. However, if that date does not follow Passover, then the Orthodox churches delay their Easter - sometimes by over a month.