



APRIL 18, 2025
GOOD FRIDAY



Tonight's service is a variation on the traditional Stations of the Cross. Our stations are anchored in each of our Sanctuary's beautiful stained glass windows. Each station will offer Scripture readings, music, and time for private reflection. To view the full gallery of these stained glass windows, visit our website.

WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD

Station I - Arrival



Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-30

Music: *Steal Away*

Reflection:

Love's arrival among us is the most mysterious of God's gifts. Seeking to be faithful, we strive to arrive for one another with a measure of that wondrous love. Consider those for whom you have arrived, or perhaps you are still making your way to them with the gift of love.

Contemplate the challenges of our arrival. Contemplate the joy of our arrival to others.

Station II - Suffering and Triumph

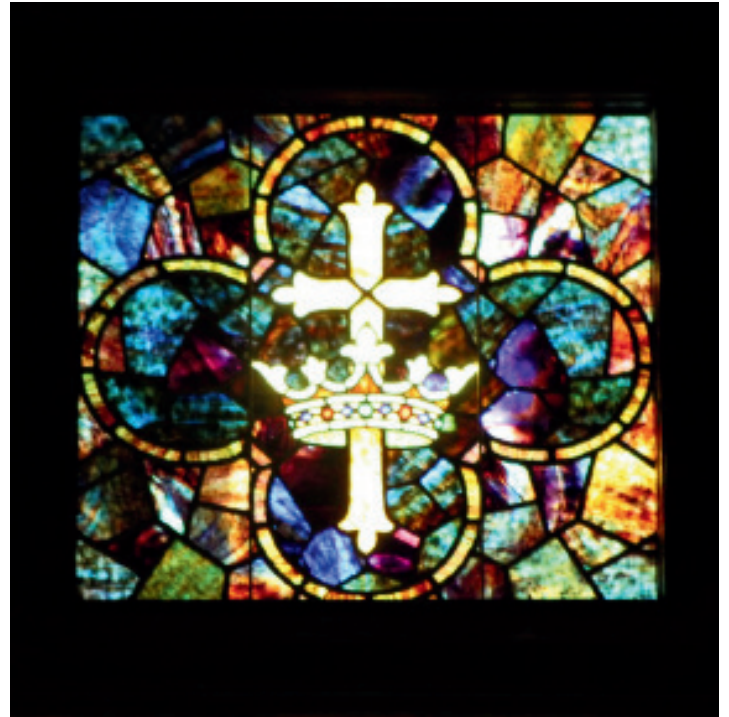
Reading: Philippians 2:1-8

Music: Hymn 213

In the Cross of Christ I Glory
(Congregation)

Reflection:

The Cross and Crown are the highest symbols in our Sanctuary and in our Christian faith. Nestling the cross within the crown symbolizes the interdependence of suffering and triumph. Have there been times of agony and suffering that have lead to a triumph of understanding or relationship? What do we wish people knew about the agony in our triumphs?



Station III - Contemplation of “The Other”



Reading: John 4:7-9, 13-15

Music: *Ribambelle: V. Lento*
Bernard Andres

Reflection:

Jesus approached a Samaritan woman despite the cultural walls that divided Jews from Samaritans. He made his way to common space for shared understanding. The Samaritan woman felt that Jesus understood “everything that she had ever done.” To be known and fully known is still one of our most profound prayers to God. Even those who are perceived to be enemies want to be known and understood. Let us consider our enemies and how they might want to be understood.

Station IV - Hope and Charity



Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:11 - 13

Music: *The Gift of Love*

arr. Joel Raney

Reflection:

Hope and Charity are embers of light in the midst of Good Friday darkness. Every act of charity requires that we are illumined by God's possibilities. Every act of charity becomes a source of hope for those who are in darkness. Agape. Love.

Station V - Waiting

Reading: Psalm 137:1-6

Music: *By the Babylonian River*

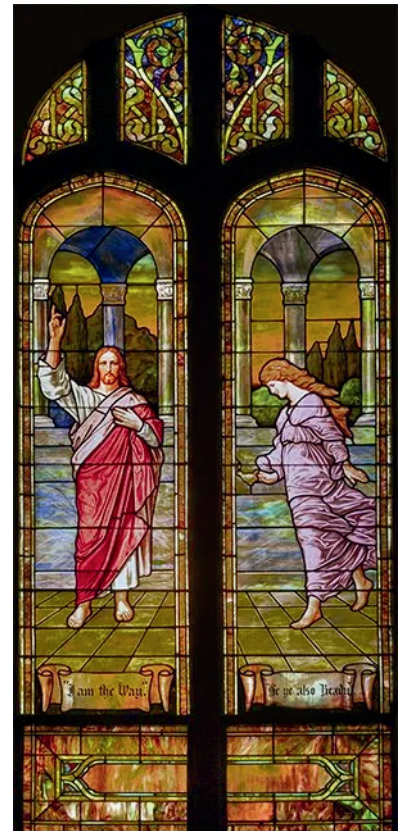
arr. Burkhardt

Congregation Hymn #72

(sung in canon/round with the choir)

Reflection:

Exodus, exile, and separation from God are major themes of Hebrew and New Testament scriptures. In the midst of loss and loneliness, waiting is the agony of exile. Good Friday honors the poignancy of loss but not toward despair. We wait, trusting in the proximity and possibilities of God.



Station VI - Pruning and Perishing

Reading: John 15:1-5

Music: *Gymnopedie I*
Erik Satie

Reflection:

The work's unusual title comes from the French form of gymnopaedia, the ancient Greek word for an annual festival where young men danced either naked or, perhaps figuratively, simply unarmed. The vines of a vineyard wind and dance their way toward the sun with vulnerability and strength. As we branch from the vine, we are at our best for God when we are strong and vulnerable. In what way does your strength and vulnerability collaborate for your growth in God?



Station VII - The Other Side of the Road

Reading: Luke 10:33-37

Music: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*
African American Spiritual

Reflection:

The other side of the road is really just the space between two human beings with very different needs. It takes a lot of courage to traverse the distance and cross over with faithfulness into the complexity of another person's life. Consider for whom you might cross the proverbial road.



Station VIII - Travels and Guides



Reading: John 10:11-16

Music: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Daniel Burton

Reflection:

A shepherd in the ancient world was anything but gentle and comforting. The ancient shepherds were politically savvy, tenacious. They were the ones who poked and prodded. Jesus is one who prods us forward. Consider those people in your lives who have acted as shepherds in the ancient sense, prodding you onward. Consider the way they stayed after you and helped you to mature, growing in wisdom. Think about the comfort that is yours now because you had someone to motivate you through a stretch of life's landscape.

Station IX- Angels Attending



Reading: Matthew 27:45-54

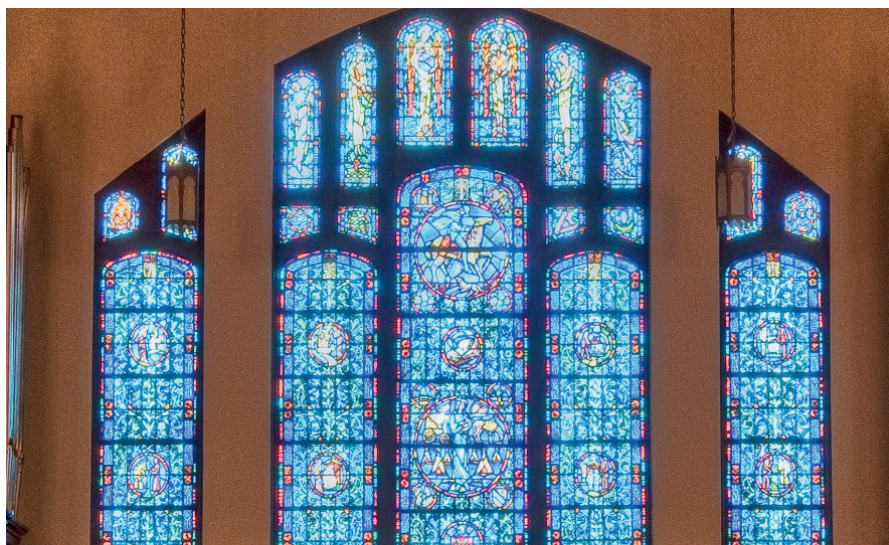
Music: *Were You There*

Norman Luboff

Reflection:

Were You There is an old plantation hymn written and sung by slaves who were snared in powers and principalities that diminished their worth and life. In asking the question "Were you there,"? there is the suggestion that even if not everyone witnessed the suffering of Jesus or the suffering of those who were slaves upon a plantation, God witnesses, abides, and attends. How are you affected by the reality of Slavery in our national & faith histories?

Station X - Individual Life Given



The Rotan window is a picture of how Kate and Edward Rotan did this. The two left panels are windows dedicated to Kate's life work. The two right panels are windows dedicated to Edward's life work. The central panel holds a medallion of Edward on horseback, a medallion of a Model T Ford, and a medallion of Kate at the frontier of life. The Rotan window invites us to go out into the world in peace and to have courage as we live sharing our time and talents with God and neighbor.

Think about the way in which each of these medallions might be yours. Good Friday, at its best, remembers Christ's life freely given and our own lives given in particular ways back to God.

Reading: Psalm 139:13-18

Music: Congregation Hymn 312

Take Us As We are, O God

The congregation is invited to depart in silence.

Musicians

Choral Scholars: Sarah Davis, Brian Rainosek, John Jovicich

St. Cecilia Handbell Choir: Director Amy Goodman

Chancel Choir: Director Austin Ingalls

Jocelyn Williams: Flute

Carol Barrett: Recorder

Becky Ward: Organ, Piano, Harp

Sarah Lieber: Bassoon

Charlie Stern: Flugelhorn