

Prayers at The Cross



April 7, 2023
Good Friday

WESTMINSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

162/165 East Main Street • Westminster, MD 21157 www.wumcmd.org • 410-848-8325 • 410-876-2124

Attendance — text “HERE” to 443-234-0806.
Visiting?—text “WELCOME” to 443-234-0806.

PRAYER FOR SILENT MEDITATION

*Everlasting God, because of your tender mercy toward all people,
you sent your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon himself our flesh,
and to suffer death upon the cross,
that all should follow the example of his great humility.*

*Mercifully grant that we may follow the examples of his patience and also
be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Book of Common Prayer, U.S.A., 20th Cent. Alt.

GATHERING

PRELUDE - *There Is a Green Hill Far Away* - arr. Smith

* CALL TO WORSHIP

(L) In the name of Christ we gather on this day of Good Friday to remember anew
the struggle of the cross and the final victory.

(P) **With you, Lord, we wish to remain.**

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(L) Let us walk together to the cross, see our Lord's suffering, hear his voice pleading for drink, and asking for pardon for those who tortured him mercilessly.

(P) O, how to hold back the tears in the midst of so much pain? And even then, you taught us how to love.

(L) When the day darkened and it seemed to envelop the whole earth, we thought all was lost.

(P) But amid the darkness, we saw your light.

(L) It was there, when the sun darkened and the temple veil tore in half, that we heard your voice, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Then there was peace.

(P) In the midst of life's darkness, peace also comes when, with complete confidence, we offer ourselves to you, beloved Lord.

(L) Because in the hour of darkness and pain your light shone brightly when the centurion exclaimed, "Truly this man was the Son of God."

(P) With you, Lord, we wish to remain.

Written by Yolanda Pupo-Ortiz, translated by Raquel Mora Martinez in Fiesta Jubilosa

* UMH 289 – Ah, Holy Jesus

GATHERING PRAYER: Merciful God, we gather to recount and recall the injustice, pain, and suffering your Son endured on the cross at the hands of sinful humanity. Grant us awareness as we enter the story of Christ's Passion, that in not shirking away from Christ's suffering, we would be surprised by grace, because even in humiliating and shameful death, your love never failed. Train our hearts on the Light that is the life of all people, that as the darkness encroaches, we might remain tenacious in hope and persistent in love. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2022

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayers at the Cross

The events of Good Friday presented through scripture, narration, poetry and music.

READERS: Scripture, Anne Dorwart – Narration, Roger Hershberger
Matthew 27: 11 – 20, 32, 57-61 Luke 23:33 – 34, 46
I Timothy 2: 5 -6 Mark 15:34 John 19:28-30

Anthem: *Father, Forgive* – Susan and Lee Dengler

Poem: *His Mother* – by Linda Wood

Anthem: *Into Your Hands* – Susan and Lee Dengler

Poem: *ENIGMA* – by Linda Wood

CONFESSION AND THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we stand in the dim shadows of a cross, longing for Resurrection. But today we pause to remember the pain of the cross and the pain of the crosses we've faced. We pause to cry for violence, discrimination, and exclusion against persons merely because they do not fit into cultural norms. We cry for food, water, and housing insecurity in impoverished neighborhoods created and exacerbated by neglect. As the disciples wept on that fateful day so long ago, we weep for the Savior and for the tree, and all the trees that one represented, from which he hung. We cry for our ecology: birds slick from oil, forests decimated causing mudslides and runoff, air polluted from our disdain for the creation that cries with us. As those first disciples wondered whether that fateful day was the end of their dreams, we admit we are afraid that our dream of a just, nonviolent world is fleeting and in peril of death. Help us, God, as we live in the tension between death and your seeming silence, the time after the crucifixion and before the Resurrection—in the name and pain of the Crucified One, Amen.

Adapted from Valerie Bridgeman Davis, The Africana Worship Book of Worship Year A

* HYMN: *God, What a Faith-Filled Mystery* – see bulletin insert

(Continued on back cover)

SENDING FORTH

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2022

POSTLUDE - *O Sacred Head Now Wounded* – Buxtehude

Poem: *Saturday* – by Linda Wood

*Following the Postlude, feel free to remain seated and use this time for prayer and meditation.
Please leave in silence.*

Poetry and art created by our congregation can be viewed in the Martha Manahan room. Thanks to everyone who participated in this unique expression of our faith.

Some of the items are used in tonight's service:

Children's Sunday School: The tree represents the tree of life, trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the cross. The hand-print table cloth represents Jesus' gift to us of his life.

Middle School Sunday School Class: A burnt match stick cross representing Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten journey.

Addie Lyle made the scripture banner hanging from the balcony.

WUMC – UMYF *Jesus Cross* (Narthex): The large painting represents Jesus, having come to earth in human form, saving humanity by dying on the cross on Good Friday and resurrecting on Easter Sunday. Scripture assures us that He was present at Creation, He is the Word, and is present at all times. The painting also depicts that Jesus is known through different means, communion being one, and through our lives and the lives of those around us. God's love and saving grace is inclusive and accepting of all.

*Thanks for worshiping with us this evening. We hope you found it meaningful.
Please worship with us again on Easter Sunday, 10:30am.*

SERVICE NOTES INFORMATION BOX

Leading Worship: Rev. Dr. Malcolm Stranathan

Music: Peggy Brengle, CAGO – Organist Carolyn Brown – Piano
Chancel Choir, Kyler Brengle – Director

Readers: Anne Dorwart, Roger Hershberger

Slides: Kyler Brengle

AV Team: David Hughson, Kyler Brengle

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