

A Service for the Worship of God

Good Friday April 14, 2017 † 5:00 p.m. in Lingle Chapel

Ultimately laid in a tomb, closed with a stone, Jesus took our sins upon himself in order that we might be redeemed. The stone you received as you arrived this evening carries many meanings; Hold it in your hand; place your worries on it; feel its weight.

As we remember Jesus' final words, we will extinguish the candles on the communion table, one by one.

The gradual extinguishing of the candles will be accompanied by prayers, hymns, choral anthems, and readings from Scripture. Following the final hymn, the Christ candle will be extinguished to signify Christ's death and you are invited to leave the chapel in silence, laying your stone down at the foot of the cross as you exit.

Call to Worship

We follow Christ,
Who says take up your cross.

We follow Christ,
Who bids us come and offer our lives.

We follow Christ,
Who summons us to new life.

Come, let us worship our Creator.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,
on this day we gather to remember the suffering death of Jesus.
He was despised and rejected,
oppressed and afflicted,
yet he was prepared to be wounded for our transgressions.

**We come overwhelmed by the depth of Jesus' love for us,
and his commitment to defeat evil,
even when that meant his own suffering and his own death.**

In his willingness to make us righteous,
he poured himself out to death,
even death on a cross,
and so, in response to such love and sacrifice,
we commit ourselves as his disciples
to overcome evil with good,
suffering with wholeness,
and oppression with justice.
In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

Hymn 217 On a Barren Hilltop

THE STONE OF CONDEMNATION – THE FIRST WORD

"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:34.

Reading: Psalm 51:1-14

Prayer

Almighty God, to whom your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing, grant that we, also, may be included in that prayer. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior. Amen.

Hymn 867 Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God (verse 1, sung twice)

Silence

THE STONE OF SEPARATION – THE SECOND WORD

"Today you will be with me in Paradise" Luke 23:43

Reading: John 14:1-6

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.

Hymn 227 Jesus, Remember Me

Silence

THE STONE OF SORROW – THE THIRD WORD

"Dear woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother." John 19:26-27

Reading: Mark 3:31-35

Prayer

O Blessed Savior, who in your hours of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that we who seek to follow your example may show our concern for the needs of others, reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family. Hear this our prayer for your mercy's sake. Amen.

Musical Reflection

Stabat Mater

Ned Rorem

Silence

THE STONE OF DESPAIR – THE FOURTH WORD

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46

Reading: Psalm 22:1-11

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, 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.

Hymn 809 Why Has God Forsaken Me (choir sings Verse 1; all sing 2-4)

Silence

THE STONE OF SUFFERING – THE FIFTH WORD

"I am thirsty." John 19:28

Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5

Prayer

O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others. Amen.

Hymn 216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus (Verses 1 and 2)

Silence

THE STONE OF THE SPIRIT – THE SIXTH WORD

"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Luke 23:46

Reading: Luke 2:29-32

Prayer

Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that we too, following his example, may in all of life and at the moment of our death entrust our lives into your faithful hands of love. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. Amen.

Hymn 822 When We Are Living (Verse 1)

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

Silence

THE STONE OF DEATH – THE SEVENTH WORD

"It is finished." John 19:30

Reading: Luke 23:44-49

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. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness. O Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Solo: "Were You There"

Leave in silence

As you leave you are invited to place your stone beneath the cross of Christ outside the chapel—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.

Leading Worship:

Readers:

Mary Margaret Porter, Robert Alexander, Lib McGregor Simmons

Organist:

Jane Cain

Soloist:

Genny Bosak

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Davidson College Presbyterian Church



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