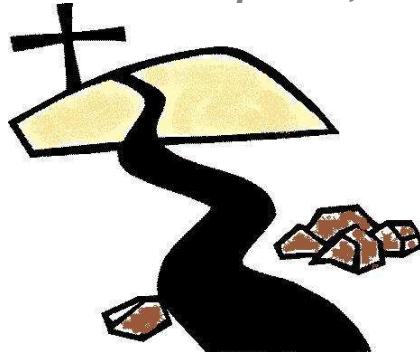


Greendale Ecumenical Good Friday

The Way of the Cross – April 7th, 2023



Introduction

Blessed be the **+** Holy Trinity, one God. **Amen.**

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.' -Matthew 16.24, 25

Musical Offering

Song of peace
Brad Hendrickson

Jean Langlais

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God,
who in Your tender love towards the human race
sent Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ
to take upon him our flesh
and to suffer death upon the cross:
please grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;
through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Sung Response

tune: *GETHSEMANE*

*Kneeling in the garden grass,
Jesus groans against his death,
let this cup of sorrow pass,
while he prays in that same breath:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Pr. Andrew Borden

Reading

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate spoke to the crowd: "What do you wish me to do with the man you call the king of the [Hebrews]?" They shouted back, "Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" So, after flogging Jesus, Pilate handed him over to be crucified.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: GETHSEMANE

*While and court and priests conspire
how to slant the evidence,
Jesus calmly bears their ire
as his prayer grows more intense:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency:
please be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the powerful.
You were the victim of unbridled injustice:
change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters to your way of peace.
Jesus, innocent though condemned,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Second Station: Jesus Takes Up His Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Pr. Aaron Payson

Reading

Carrying his cross by himself, Jesus went out to the place called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: *GETHSEMANE*

*When the massive cross of wood
bends and bruises Jesus' frame,
hear him seek eternal good
as he prays in heaven's name:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you carried the cross through the rough streets of Jerusalem:
please be with those who are loaded with burdens beyond their strength.
You bore the weight of our sins when you carried the cross:
we ask that you help us to realize the extent and the cost of your love for us.
Jesus, bearing a cross not your own,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Third Station: Jesus Falls the First Time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Pr. Mark Nilson

Reading

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped; but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, and was born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: GETHSEMANE

*Jesus falls beneath the weight
of the cross he's forced to bear,
Yet its load of sin and hate
Do not crush his hope and prayer:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you fell under the weight of the cross:
please be with those who cry out in physical or emotional distress.
You endured abuse and shame:
we ask that you be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.
Jesus our humble Savior,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Afflicted Mother

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Marie Sturdevant

Reading

To what can I liken you, to what can I compare you, O daughter of Jerusalem? What can I use to comfort you, O virgin daughter of Zion? For vast as the sea is your ruin. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: *GETHSEMANE*

*Jesus reads in Mary's eyes
all the sorrow mothers bear,
and he prays his friend supplies
grace to strengthen her own prayer:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, whose love is like that of a mother:
as you suffer, a sword pierces the heart of your blessed mother.

We ask that you comfort parents who grieve the loss of children to drugs, gangs, prison, or death,
and give us strength to offer support and strength.

Jesus, heart of compassion,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Fifth Station: The Cross is Laid on Simon of Cyrene

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Adam Hanks

Reading

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: *GETHSEMANE*

*We with Simon of Cyrene
help the Savior bear the cross.
Step by step we slowly glean
what true faith and prayer will cost:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:
please be with those from whom life drains all energy.
You needed the help of a passing stranger:
we ask that you give us the humility to receive aid from others.
Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion and in need of help,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Sixth Station: A Woman Wipes the Face of Jesus

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Roberta Briggs

Reading

We have seen him without beauty or majesty, with no looks to attract our eyes. He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, as one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we esteemed him not. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, for by his stripes we are healed.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: GETHSEMANE

*Seek the courage and the grace
that Veronica displays
when she wipes the bleeding face
of the one who bravely prays:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you touched others with your healing presence,
and your love is made known in acts of selfless compassion:
please draw near to all who suffer pain, deprivation and degradation,
and open our eyes to see your beauty in each person.
Jesus, healer of our every ill,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Seventh Station: Jesus Falls for a Second Time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Pr. Andrew

Reading

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to their own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth. For the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: GETHSEMANE

*Jesus trips and falls again
as he struggles through the street
where the mob's unceasing din
mocks the prayer his lips repeat:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, bearer of our sins,
please comfort all who stumble under life's burdens:
we ask that you bless those who give of themselves for the service of others,
that with wisdom, patience, and courage,
they may minister to all those who suffer.
Jesus, who laid down your life for us,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Eighth Station: Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

Pr. Aaron

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Reading

A great number of the people followed Jesus, and among them were women who were wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children."

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: *GETHSEMANE*

*Christ directs the women's tears
toward the coming judgment day
when God weights our faithless years
with our willingness to pray:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you:
please help move us to tears at the plight of the broken in our world.
You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the 'city of peace':
we humbly ask that you bless the Levant this day and lead it to the path of profound peace.
Jesus, the King of peace who wept for the city of peace,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Ninth Station: Jesus Falls a Third Time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Pr. Mark

Musical Offering

Ah, Holy Jesus
Grace Lutheran Bells

arr: Jason Krug

Reading

I am one who has seen affliction under the rod of God's wrath; God has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; God has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation and has made me sit in darkness like the dead of long ago. Though I call and cry for help, [God] shuts out my prayer. God has made my teeth grind on gravel, and made me cower in ashes. The thought of my affliction and my homelessness is wormwood and gall!

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: *GETHSEMANE*

*Jesus stumbles one last time,
nearly broken by the load,
yet by prayer finds strength to climb
Calvary's final stretch of road:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Jesus, servant of all:

in your humiliation our fallen world is listed up
and rescued from the hopelessness of death.

Please grant perseverance to those at the limits of their mental, physical, or moral strength,
and strengthen those who counsel the despairing or suicidal.

Jesus, who offers hope to the hopeless,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Marie Sturdevant

Reading

When they came to a place called Golgotha, they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. The soldiers divided his garments among them by casting lots. This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: GETHSEMANE

*Naked to the sun and clouds
and the jeers and gawking stare
of the soldiers and the crowds,
Christ continues with his prayer:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray..

Lord Jesus, bearing our shame,
as you are stripped of your dignity:
we remember all those exposed to ridicule—
battered wives, victims of abuse and violence,
and all exploited because of race, gender, or sexual orientation.
Please clothe them with your mercy
and bestow on them dignity that belongs to them as children of God.
Jesus, whose body is for us the image of God,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Adam Hanks

Musical Offering

The Old Rugged Cross
Combined Choirs

George Bennard

Reading

When they came to the place that is called the Skull, there they crucified Jesus; and with him they crucified two criminals, one on the right, and one on the left.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: *GETHSEMANE*

*While the soldiers throw their dice,
they ignore their victim's groans,
lost to them the sacrifice
and the prayer that Jesus moans:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, source of infinite life:

we remember all who suffer unjustly.

We mourn the ways our earth has been tortured and abused.

We humbly ask that you bring us to your cross

and preserve us until the resurrection.

Jesus, wounded for our broken world,

have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Roberta Briggs

Musical Offering

"As Jesus hung on the cross"
Randy Bloom

Samuel Scheidt

Reading

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And when Jesus had received the vinegar he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: GETHSEMANE

*Jesus gives one loud last cry
at the moment of his death
while his prayer moves heaven's sky
with his final, parting breath:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend stayed with you to the bitter end,
yet even while racked with pain you ministered to them:
please be with all broken families today
and tend to those who long for companionship.
You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes:
we humbly ask that you give us a love for one another
that is stronger even than the fear of death.
Jesus, trusting to the very end,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Thirteenth Station: Jesus' Body is Placed in his Mother's Arms

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Pr. Andrew

Musical Offering

O sacred head now wounded
Brad Hendrickson

J.S. Bach

Reading

All who pass by, behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow. My eyes are spent with weeping; my soul is tumult; my heart is poured out in grief because of the downfall of my people. "Do not call me Naomi, which means Pleasant, call me Mara, which means Bitter. For the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me."

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: *GETHSEMANE*

*As they take the body down
and they wrap it in a sheet,
in their hearts they hear the sound
that his lips no more repeat:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross
and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:
please give courage to those who die at the hands of others.
In death you entered into the darkest place of all:
we humbly ask that you illumine our darkness with your glorious presence.
O crucified Jesus, temple of God and gate of heaven,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.
By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

Pr. Aaron

Musical Offering

“Adagio” from K488
Matthew Johnson

W.A. Mozart

Reading

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb.

Brief Silence

Sung Response

tune: GETHSEMANE

*Quiet is the hollowed cave.
Peace and tears and grief descend.
Mourners offer at the grave
what they learned from Christ their friend:
Not my will but Yours be done.
Not my will but Yours be done.*

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us:
please be with those who feel worthless in the world's eyes.
You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight:
we humbly ask that you be with all who suffer and die in secret,
hidden from the eyes of the world.
Jesus, seed planted in the earth,
have mercy and hear us.

The congregation responds in unison

*God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy and hear us.*



MUSICAL CONTEMPLATION*Prelude in E minor*

J.S. Bach

*DEPART IN SILENCE AND ABSORB THE MYSTERY THAT IS THE GOD OF OUR SALVATION.***Artistic representations:** Richard Bough

Hymn Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b.1945, © 1994, Oxford University Press

Source of select prayers: *Times and Seasons. Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* . , © 2006 Church House Publishing. CCLI license #313059

Thank you for worshipping with us this day.

Greendale Ecumenical Group sponsors, preparers & participants:Grace Lutheran Ministries (ELCA) *Zion & Bethel*

The Rev. Andrew Borden, Pastor

Randy Bloom, Minister of Music

Marie Sturdevant, Lay Leader

Adam Hanks, Lay Leader, Bell Director

Roberta Briggs, Lay Leader

The Rev. Aaron Payson, Minister

Matthew Johnson, Choral Director, Piano Soloist

The Rev. Mark Nilson, Pastor

Brad Hendrickson, Choral Director

Annie Arsenault, Music Director

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester (UU)

Salem Covenant Church (TECC)

Greendale People's Church

The continuing story of our Lord's passion and resurrection...April 9th**Greendale Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service, 7AM
Shore Park, Worcester*****Yoked Communities of faith & service*****MISSION STATEMENT***"To boldly share God's Love and Grace universally in and through our communities."***VISION STATEMENT***Modeling the welcoming nature of God, we are humbly called and driven by the Spirit to witness, engage and walk with each other authentically, as Jesus' hands and feet, providing spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment.**Through evolving partnerships with ecumenical and other social service organizations we affirm justice and wholeness under the "agency of Grace" that feed the needs and hope of all.****The Rev. Andrew H. Borden***, Pastor

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