

*An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare, #94 O WALY WALY

PRAYER OF PREPARATION and the LORD'S PRAYER
Glenda Simpkins Hoffman

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Tonight we will share the elements through Intinction. Please come forward to receive the elements when invited, dipping the bread into the common cup. Gluten-free wafers are available.

REFLECTION ON THE WAY OF THE CROSS

UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to be given over to the hands of sinners and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*Beneath the Cross of Jesus, #92 St. CHRISTOPHER

1st STATION: Jesus on the Mount of Olives

Luke 22:39-46 Andy Arnold

Unison Prayer

Lord Jesus, as I reflect upon your experience in Gethsemane, I am once again astounded by your utter humanness. You are not God-in-flesh-well-sort-of, but truly God in human flesh. You are Emmanuel, God with us. Thus you are also God with me. You understand me. You stand with me in hard times. You encourage me when I wrestle with the Father's will. And you intercede for me. How I thank you, dear Lord, for who you are, for what you have done, and for what you are doing in my life today. Amen.

2nd STATION: Jesus, betrayed by Judas, is arrested

Luke 22:47-48 Lee Self

Unison Prayer

O Lord, as much as I hate to admit it, to myself and to you, there is a bit of Judas in me. Forgive me for the times I have pledged my love for you, only to reject you in the way I live. Help me to see where my commitment to you is mixed, where my heart is divided against itself. Set me free to be wholly devoted to you, even when I don't understand you, even when I'm afraid that following you is too risky. Amen.

3rd STATION: Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin

Luke 22:66-71 Chuck Allen

Unison Prayer

O Lord, the Jewish officials didn't understand what it meant for you to be Messiah, and they condemned you as a criminal worthy of death. Your own followers didn't understand what it meant for you to be Messiah, so they scattered and hid in your hour of crisis. Help me not to be like these! Help me to understand what it means when I confess you to be the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed of God. And may this confession lead me to a life of true discipleship. Let your kingdom come, Lord, and your will be done, on earth as in heaven. And let this happen in my life, even today! Amen.

4th STATION: Peter denies Jesus

Luke 22:54-62 Michelle Rahal

Unison Prayer

Forgive me, dear Lord, when I let fear get in the way of my relationship with you. Forgive me for all the times I've fallen short in my discipleship because I've been afraid. Forgive me for failing to trust you when you've proven yourself to be so utterly worthy of trust. Help me, Lord, not to be like Peter in this story. When hard times come, help me to trust you more. When my adrenaline starts to pound, clouding my mind and suffocating my heart, help me to receive your peace. When I'm tempted to deny you, either in words or deeds, or by failing to speak or act, help me to trust and obey. May I live my whole life in honor of you! Amen.

Ah, Holy Jesus, #93 HERZLIEBSTER JESU

5th STATION: Jesus is judged by Pilate

Luke 23:13-25 Greg Rahal

Unison Prayer

Dear Lord, You know how easy it is for me to be like Pilate. I don't like to take responsibility for my failures. I find rationalization to be so natural. I can fool myself into thinking I haven't really done wrong. So forgive me, Lord, when I follow the way of Pilate. Help me to acknowledge my sins, both to myself and to you, rather than wallowing in my pointless excuses and defenses. By your Spirit, guide me to see clearly where I have missed your mark, so that I might confess truly and fully. Help me to experience the forgiveness you offer in Christ, and to live in the freedom of the cleansing you alone provide. Amen.

6th STATION: Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns

Luke 22:63-65 and John 19:2-3 Joni Thomas

Unison Prayer

Gracious, merciful Lord, how hard it is to read of the abuse you suffered even prior to your crucifixion. I can't even begin to imagine what you felt, not only physically, but especially in your soul. What can I say in response but "Thank you" for walking the path of suffering and shame for my sake. You took the abuse that I deserved, and gave me your glory in return. Help me, dear Lord, to honor you as my King in all that I do. May my words and deeds reflect your sovereignty and celebrate your glory. Amen.

7th STATION: Jesus takes up the Cross

Mark 15:20 and Isaiah 53:3-5 RJ Clarke

Unison Prayer

Dear Lord, you chose the cross. Yes, the Jewish leaders accused you. And, yes, Pilate sentenced you. And, indeed, Roman soldiers led you to Golgotha. But in a very real sense they were simply working out what God had willed and you had freely and painfully chosen. How I thank you for this costly choice! Because you took up the cross, I can take up life in all of its fullness. Because you were led to die, I can be led into the eternal life. Because you bore my sin, I can enjoy your forgiveness. How good you are to me, dear Lord, my Savior! Amen.

Sweetly Broken Jeremy Riddle

8th STATION: Simon the Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the Cross

Luke 23:26 and Galatians 2:19-20 Robin Portman

Unison Prayer

Dear Lord, the powerful example of Simon reminds me that I am also to take up the cross and follow you. You have called me to die to myself so that I might live for you. I confess that sometimes I resist this call, even though I know that in dying to myself I find true life in you. So help me, Lord, to carry my cross, to give my life away so that I might receive the abundant life of your kingdom. I could not do this were it not for the fundamental fact that you took my place on the cross. Through you, I am forgiven and invited

into the fullness of life. In your death, I am raised to new life. All thanks and praise be to you, Lord Jesus, for bearing my sin on the cross, so that I might bear the cross into eternal life, both now and forever. Amen.

9th STATION: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Luke 23:27-31 Michael Bronson

Unison Prayer

Gracious God, to whatever extent there are remnants of anti-Semitism in me, please forgive me and cleanse my mind and heart. Help me not to blame others for the death of Jesus, but to see my own sin as sending Him to the cross. Even more, help me to grasp the mystery of your grace, to see in the death of Jesus that which gives me life. May my weeping over the suffering of Jesus, and my sorrow over my own sin, turn to joy when I recognize the majesty of your mercy. Amen.

10th STATION: Jesus is crucified

Luke 23:33-4, 47 Mary Pella

Unison Prayer

Gracious Lord, how can I ever thank you for dying on the cross for me? Your death has given me life. Your sacrifice has led to my blessing. Yet I confess that I can sometimes take your death for granted, forgetting what you did for me and neglecting its significance. Forgive me, Lord. And even when I can't go to the actual place of your crucifixion today, may the reality of your sacrifice press itself upon my mind and flood my heart. All praise to you, merciful Lord, for Your cross! Amen.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, #100 ROCKINGHAM

11th STATION: Jesus promises His Kingdom to the good Thief

Luke 23:39-43 Greg Pompelli

Unison Prayer

Dear Lord, how I thank and praise you for your mercy. You give us not what we deserve, but infinitely better. Thank you for hearing my cries to you, and for responding to me as much as you did to the thief who sought your help. Thank you for remembering even me, and for the promise I have of Paradise beyond this life. There's much I don't understand about the afterlife, but what I know is that I will be with you, seeing you face to face. And in your presence there will be fullness of joy. That's more than enough for me! Amen.

12th STATION: Jesus on the Cross, His mother, and His Disciple

John 19:25-27 Donna Scott

Unison Prayer

When I think of your mother, Lord, I remember that you weren't just the Son of God bearing the sins of the world. You were also the son of Mary, the boy whom she loved. Mary gives us a touching reminder of your humanity, Lord. Because you were truly human, because you truly suffered, you did indeed bear the sins of the world, and mine as well. All praise be to you, Lord Jesus! Amen.

13th STATION: Jesus dies on the Cross

Luke 23:44-47 Gary Goodrich

Unison Prayer

Merciful Lord, thank you for being The Righteous One. Thank you for your perfect life and your sacrificial death. Thank you for taking my sin upon yourself, and giving me your righteousness in return. Like the centurion, I look upon your cross today with wonder. But I'm not only struck by your legal innocence. I'm astounded by your willingness to suffer and die for me, the Righteous One for the unrighteous. All praise be to you, glorious, gracious, giving Lord!

Amazing Love Chris Tomlin

14th STATION: Jesus is placed in the tomb

Luke 23:50-54 and Mark 16:1-4 Shelley Ott

Unison Prayer

Lord Jesus, today we remember the fact that your death wasn't some charade. Rather, you really died. Thus, you experienced the ultimate penalty for our sin . . . for my sin. I'll never be able to understand fully the wonder of your death. But I can grasp the fact that your real death opened up the door for me to experience real life. Face with such a merciful mystery, I cry: "Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?" To you be all the praise and glory! Amen!

SILENCE—please stay and meditate as long as you want, then leave in silence.

Special thanks to our readers, communion servers, our music leaders Darrell and Donna Scott and Kristina Schenck, and Megan Kristsky for her ministry of slides.

Stations of the Cross Liturgy by the Rev. Mark D. Roberts, Patheos.com, 2011.

Maundy Thursday

March 24, 2016

7:30 p.m.



PRELUDE Darrell Scott

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP David Jordan-Haas

People: Jesus said, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

Leader: On this day Christ gathered with His disciples in the upper room.

People: On this day Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as He has done to us.

Leader: On this day Christ our God gave us this Holy Feast, that those who eat this bread and drink this cup may proclaim His holy sacrifice and be partakers of His resurrection and at the last day may reign with Him in heaven's glory.

People: Later on this night Christ the Lamb of God gave Himself into the hands of those who would betray and slay Him.