



GOOD FRIDAY

IT IS FINISHED

**SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS**

**UNITED CHURCH OF DORSET AND EAST RUPERT**

**GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 2, 2021**

~SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS ~ GOOD FRIDAY ~ APRIL 2, 2021 ~

**SILENT MEDITATION** *In the early first century Christian church, every Friday was a special day of prayer and fasting. Not until the fourth century did the Friday before Easter become a special observance originally called "Great Friday" or "Holy Friday." But why would this sad day on which Jesus was crucified ever be called "Good Friday?"*

*In the early Germanic church, the Friday before Easter was referred to as "Gott's Freitag" - "God's Friday," and over the years, "God's" was ironically replaced with "Good." But to this day, many Christians do find a transcendent good in the awful realities of Jesus' crucifixion. His sacrifice on the cross highlights humanity's inhumanity to each other, often in the name of God. The horror of crucifixion, in grim juxtaposition to Jesus' innocence and martyrdom, only serves to magnify that inhumanity. As we re-visit this drama each and every year, our ardent prayer is that the collective conscience of the human race is inspired to never repeat it and increase in justice and love. Thus we are redeemed.*

**WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** We kneel before the cross of Jesus,

**P:** *Like Simon of Cyrene - molested from our private affairs, with the weight of our Lord's burden suddenly thrust upon our shoulders.*

**L:** We kneel before the cross of Jesus,

**P:** *Like the "passers-by" - not sure what to believe about this Man; feeling the tug-of-war between cruel mob and Christ's disciples.*

**L:** We kneel before the cross of Jesus,

**P:** *Like Mary his mother - helplessly watching our beloved through a veil of tears.*

**L:** We kneel before the cross of Jesus,

**P:** *Like Peter - mortified with shame for promises broken.*

**L:** We kneel before the cross of Jesus,

**P:** *Like the Centurion - just "following orders" from the powers that be.*

**L:** We kneel before the cross of Jesus,

**P:** *Like the "beloved disciple" - ready and willing to receive our Lord's dying wishes.*

**\*HYMN (CH) # 197 Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

- 1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand,  
The shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land;  
A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
From the burning of the noon-tide heat, and the burden of the day.*
- 2. Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see  
The very dying form of one who suffered there for me;  
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:  
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.*
- 3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.*

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *O God, help us nail to the cross our whole body of sin that slowly brings death; the wrong desires of our hearts, the selfish scheming of our minds, the*

*calculated blindness of our sight, the cruel words of our tongue, the destructive work of our hands, the fleeing tread of our feet. Make us new people in the likeness of our Lord, that He might live again, on Earth as it is in Heaven.*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** *God sent Jesus into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save it. That all who believe in Him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs of a Life in Christ.*

**FIRST WORD (Luke 23:33-34)**

**Rev. Jordan (Skip) Dickinson**

**Music Interlude - Verset – Leon Boelmann**

**SECOND WORD (Luke 23:39-43)**

**Alan Lindsey**

**Music Interlude - Fugue – J.K.Fischer**

**THIRD WORD (John 19:25-27)**

**Derry Dickinson**

**Music Interlude - Judex Crederis – Giovanni Battista Fasolo**

**FOURTH WORD (Mathew 27:45ff)**

**Rev. Dr. James H. Gray**

**\*HYMN (CH) # 198 vs. 1** *Were You There*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)*

**FIFTH WORD (John 19:28)**

**Joel Ario**

**Music Interlude - Kyrie – Girolamo Frescobaldi**

**SIXTH WORD (John 19:30)**

**Rev. Holly Ross**

**Music Interlude - Vater unser im Himmelreich – Johann Krieger**

**SEVENTH WORD (Luke 23:46)**

**Ginny Longacre**

**CLOSING HYMN (CH) # 198 vs. 2 & 3** *Were You There*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)*

*Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)*

**\*BENEDICTION**

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