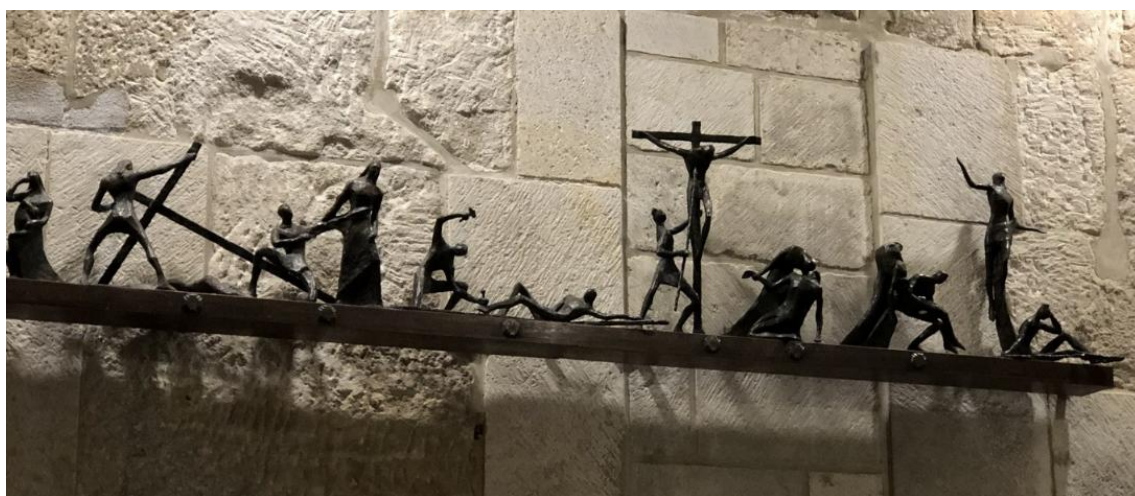


Saint Matthew's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Night Prayer & The Way of the Cross
Good Friday
April 3, 2026
7:30 pm

We welcome you to this evening liturgy on Good Friday. This liturgy is taken, in part, from a portion of The New Zealand Prayer Book called, *Night Prayer*, and a work entitled, A Walk in Jerusalem: Stations of the Cross, by John Peterson (Morehouse, 1998). The liturgy was first crafted for St. Matthew's in 2023, slightly shortened this evening, embracing 10 Stations of the Cross.

In the centuries after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Christian pilgrims made their way to Jerusalem and the Holy Land visiting sites referenced in scripture of important events in Jesus' life. In 381AD and again in 384AD, Egeria, a pilgrim from Spain, made a Good Friday pilgrimage from the Mount of Olives (location of Jesus' prayer in the Garden the eve of his capture) to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (constructed over the place of Jesus' crucifixion and burial). This walk, now known as the Via Dolorosa (the Way of the Cross), has been replicated by hundreds of thousands of Christians through the centuries. John Peterson, sometime Dean of St. George's College (a study center in Jerusalem), re-creates the walk with scripture citations and meditations.

For Christians unable to travel to Jerusalem and the Holy Land, Stations of the Cross were recreated in wood and other materials enabling Christians in Europe especially to walk The Way of the Cross. Stations are often found in Roman Catholic churches, monasteries, other liturgical churches all over the world. We are grateful here at St. Matthew's for gifts given in the past enabling us to walk The Way, reminding us of Jesus' continuing love and sacrifice.

On this night, the liturgy begins with a time of silent prayer. If you are able, please stand or kneel for this time of prayer. When the appointed time comes, the Officiant begins the service with the following sentences. The People read the words in bold.

Officiant The angels of God guard us through the night,
People **And quiet the powers of darkness.**

Officiant The Spirit of God be our guide
People **to lead us to peace and glory.**

Officiant It is but lost labor that we haste to rise up early, and so late take rest,
and eat the bread of anxiety. For those beloved of God are given gifts
even while they sleep. My sisters and brothers,
our help is in the name of the eternal God,
People **who is making the heavens and the earth.**

Officiant and People

**Dear God, thank you for all that is good,
for our creation and for our humanity,
for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,
for the gifts of life and of one another,
for your love which is unbounded and eternal.**

**O God, most holy and beloved,
my Companion, my Guide upon the way, my bright evening star.**

We repent the wrongs we have done:

Officiant We have wounded your love.
People **O God, heal us.**

Officiant We stumble in the darkness.
People **Light of the world transfigure us.**

Officiant We forget that we are your home.
People **Spirit of God, dwell in us.**

Officiant and People

Eternal Spirit, loving God,
in whom we live and move and have our being,
all that we are, have been, and will be is known to you,
to the very secrets of our hearts
and all that rises to trouble us.
Living flame burn in us,
cleansing wind, blow through us,
fountain of water, well up within us,
that we may love and praise in deed and in truth.

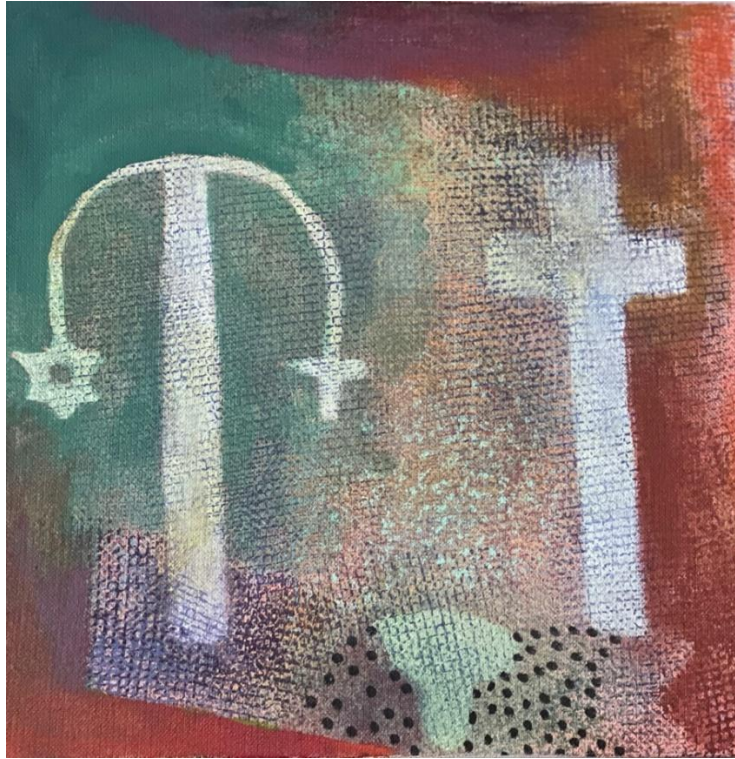
Invocation

Officiant Eternal Spirit, flow through our being and open our lips,
People **that our mouths may proclaim your praise.**

Officiant Let us worship the God of love.
People **Amen.**

*While singing, the congregation is invited to stand and follow the Cross and worship leaders as together we walk in procession to the first station. At each station, please gather around the images as we hear Scripture, reflect, and pray. The People respond with the words in **bold**.*

The First Station: Jesus Is Judged



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters, called Praetorium in Greek), and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. —Mark 15:15-17

Jesus was arrested the evening before although his arresters were not able to convict him according to their laws. Today people of color continue to be disproportionately incarcerated, policed, and sentenced to death at significantly higher rates than their white counterparts. Racial disparities in the criminal-justice system threaten communities of color—disenfranchising thousands by denying equal access to employment, housing, public benefits, and education. While people of color make up about 30% of the United States' population, they

account for 60% of those imprisoned. One in three black men can expect to go to prison in their lifetime. A social worker in Brooklyn told *The New York Times* the tragedy is not only that it is likely youth in his neighborhood face incarceration at an alarming rate, but also that youth in his community cannot envision a life that does not include incarceration.

Let us pray: Lord, you suffered at human hands the pain of false arrest, torture, and unjust punishment, and you commanded us to comfort those in prison. Build a fire in your people, Lord, that we may never learn patience with prejudice or make peace with oppression, but that we may burn with zeal for justice, proportion, and equal protections under law for all people. In the Name of him who died condemned. **Amen.**

Hymn 158 Ah, holy Jesus, v. 1

7 Ah, ho-ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fen - ded, that man to judge thee

11 hath in hate pre - ten - ded? By foes de - ri - ded,

by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.

The Second Station: Jesus Receives His Cross



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. —John 19:16b-17

Jesus is given a burden to carry, enduring the suffering of all of us. At the beginning of 2023 the federal government announced a cut in the food stamp program. These cuts put an enormous strain on family food budgets as grocery prices increased 10 percent last year. Experts warn of a “hunger cliff” in which the number of Americans going hungry is likely to increase dramatically in the near future. Food prices have affected the poverty rate, which increased in 2022. Last year, 53 million Americans utilized food banks or other food programs. Every county in America, including Fairfield County, has residents experiencing food insecurity.

Let us pray: God our sustainer, we ask you to pour your powerful Spirit into all who are empty this day: Fill the hearts of persons who are troubled. Fill the minds of men and women who are confused. Fill the stomachs of your children who are hungry. Fill the souls of people who are feeling lost. Fill the lives of all who need you, but do not know you. May your Spirit fill us all to overflowing, dear Lord, and may we be inspired to share our abundance with others, so that there will be no more empty hearts and minds, stomachs, and souls. We pray all this in the name of Jesus Christ, who fills lives with your endless grace. **Amen.**

Hymn 158 Ah holy Jesus, v 2

7 Who was the guilt? Who brought this up on thee? A-las, my treason.

11 Je-sus hath un-done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je-sus,

I it was de-nied thee: I cru-ci-fied thee.

The Third Station: Jesus Meets His Mother



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

“This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” —Luke 2:34b-35

There were women in the crowd who followed Jesus as he carried the cross. Mary stood at the foot of the cross and observed the sufferings of her son. For a mother to witness such an act and see her child die at the hands of others is unimaginable. Mothers continue to cry over the violent deaths of their children. In July 2022, firearms became the number one cause of death for children in the United States, surpassing motor vehicle deaths and those caused by other injuries. Among children who die by gunfire, Black and Hispanic children are more likely to be killed by others, and white children are more likely to kill themselves. *Moms Demand Action* is a grassroots movement that fights for public

safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. They work to pass stronger gun laws and to close the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of families.

Let us pray: O God of mercy and grace, you bring hope in the midst of senseless tragedy and light in the midst of deepest darkness: we confess our need for the Risen Christ as we face into the realities of gun violence in America. We are mindful of the deaths of innocent shoppers in grocery stores and malls, students and teachers in schools, people who gather in sanctuaries to worship, and children in the streets of our cities. Release your Holy Spirit, O God, to put our full faith and trust in you. Let your peace which passes all understanding direct us to be peacemakers in time of anguish and sorrow. **Amen.**

Psalm 22, vv. 1-6 *chanted by all*

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?

2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; *
by night as well, but I find no rest.

3 Yet you are the Holy One, *
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4 Our forefathers put their trust in you; *
they trusted, and you delivered them.

5 They cried out to you and were delivered; *
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, *
scorned by all and despised by the people.

The Fourth Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. —Luke 23:26

Simon of Cyrene was an African visitor to Jerusalem and was seized to help Jesus in his weakness. We imagine Simon was a man of color. Catherine Meeks writes in *The Night is Long but Light Comes in the Morning*, “Clearly it is not any fun to experience a broken heart, but it is empowering to stay open to the process of engaging in suffering with others. If there is going to be any genuine, sustainable change toward racial healing, we must dismantle the constructs that restrict all who live in this land. When we allow our hearts to break for one another, a new dynamic of vulnerability can emerge that makes it possible to see in a new way. There are many points along the way when one can catch a glimpse of the new light of the morning, finally managing to outlive the darkness of the night. That light will be sustained by the continued willingness to walk in the shoes of another, especially those that are considered ‘other’ among us.”

Let us pray: O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Psalm 22, vv. 7-12 *chanted by all*

7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; *
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

8 "He trusted in the LORD; let him deliver him; *
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

9 Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, *
and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

10 I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; *
you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near, *
and there is none to help.

12 Many young bulls encircle me; *
strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

The Fifth Station: Jesus Talks to the Weeping Women



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and 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. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, cover us. For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?” —Luke 23:27-31

The women walking near Jesus have now realized that there will be no last-minute pardon for Jesus as had occasionally occurred for other condemned prisoners of Rome by this point. The women weep loudly, having lost all hope for Jesus, and he responds with these words which feel very harsh as he warns them that there will be times to come that will be so terrible that they will wish their children had never been born—surely one of the most painful thoughts that a mother can have.

However, it is a thought that some mothers may have faced when confronting the almost unimaginable cruelties of war, famine, lasting oppression, or natural disasters that endangered their children and themselves. Many women have responded courageously by deciding to seek refuge in other countries. They have navigated the often-dangerous complexities of being allowed into the new country and have left all

they have known behind. Here in Wilton, three families who fled cruel wars have been assisted by the Wilton Interfaith Action Committee. The ones currently in Wilton include a widowed mother who left Syria on foot with her five young children and walked for two weeks to escape into Jordan. Then, after 18 months as a refugee in Jordan, moved to Wilton. Another mother brought her son to Wilton from Ukraine this past year hoping to return to her husband there after the war ends. These families have been welcomed and come to feel at home here. There are many other refugee stories—old and new, known and unknown, that surround us.

Let us pray: God of all nations, who unites all through Christ Jesus, we come today asking that you would help us to remember and honor all of those who have fled their homes in the hope of safety elsewhere. For the mothers who have thought it better to leave with only what can be worn on their backs; for the fathers who are unable to rest for fear of violence directed at them or their loved ones; and for the children who don't understand why they need to run in the first place: Lord, we come asking for their protection, provision, and passage. Remind us that there is no "us" or "them," because when one part of the body suffers, all members are affected. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. **Amen.**

Psalm 22, vv. 13-18 *chanted by all*

13 They open wide their jaws at me, *
like a ravener and a roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; *
my heart within my breast is melting wax.

15 My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; *
and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

16 Packs of dogs close me in, and gangs of evildoers circle around me; *
they pierce my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.

17 They stare and gloat over me; *
they divide my garments among them; they cast lots for my clothing.

18 Be not far away, O LORD; *
you are my strength; hasten to help me.

The Sixth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfil what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." —John 19:23-24

Jesus was stripped of his garments, a violation of his dignity. As a Jew, Jesus was taught never to be seen naked. His humiliation and his degradation were complete; everyone watching him, completely exposed to the ridicule of the crowd. How many black and brown brothers and sisters have been stripped of their dignity? Hanged in public squares for all to see. Treated as objects, not as humans. How many women have been denigrated by men trying to have power over them? How many practices of worship have been condemned and ridiculed by people with little understanding of who God is? How many laws have been

passed to marginalize the dignity of other races and ethnic groups including women having control over their own bodies? How many of our LGBTQ brothers and sisters have been stripped of their dignity by family members, police, and the general population?

Let us pray: For those whose dignity was lost to violence, rape, oppression. For those we inadvertently hurt through thoughtlessness and lack of patience and misunderstanding. For the young children whose dignity is often overlooked and not acknowledged. For the Indigenous Peoples who have been stripped of their lands, their culture, and their livelihood without reparations. Help us to acknowledge what we as a white privileged race have done and to help us right the wrong to our brothers and sisters. Help us to learn from each other the ways of healing so we may as a community embrace each other with your love. **Amen.**

Psalm 22, vv. 19-25 *chanted by all*

19 Save me from the sword, *
my life from the power of the dog.

20 Save me from the lion's mouth, *
my wretched body from the horns of wild bulls.

21 I will declare your Name to my brethren; *
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.

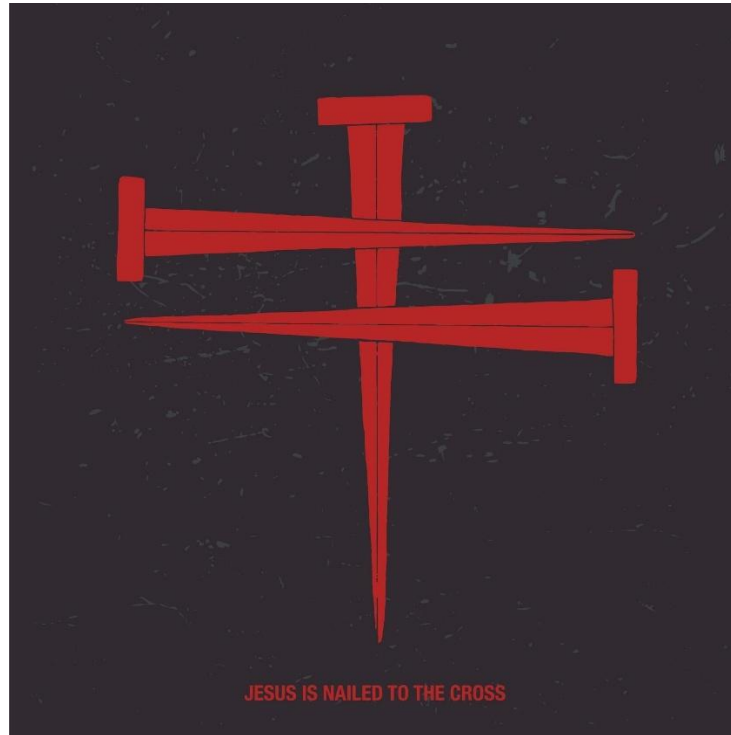
22 Praise the LORD, you that fear him; *
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.

23 For he does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them; *
but when they cry to him he hears them.

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the LORD shall praise him: *
"May your heart live for ever!"

The Seventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." —Matthew 27:39-40

The trial and crucifixion of Jesus is a powerful symbol for Christians. To see Christ's body abused physically reminds us of how militaries and state-sanctioned forces can be mobilized against people. The cruelty built into systems of power continues to exert its power over the weak. In our time we have seen soldiers, police, and vigilantes do horrific things to victims; the spectacle created in each of these cases is meant to horrify and create subservience. The Romans used this knowledge to conquer people and territory; similarly we have seen the same strategy attempted in regions of the world, most recently in Ukraine. Knowing the abuse Jesus went through should make us ever vigilant of abusive powers and individuals that seek to destroy humanity.

Let us pray: As the swords of war shatter the land and destroy the lives of God's children in our world, let us heed the call of our Lord and Savior Jesus to seek peace and to further the vision of Isaiah with our prayers, that peace may begin in our own hearts and our love for the suffering ones affected by war and violence be released to reach out to God, imploring God's mercy for the troubled places on this planet Earth, our island home. **Amen.**

Psalm 22, vv. 26-30 *chanted by all*

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the LORD; *
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the LORD's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

The Eighth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" —Mark 15:37-39

Jesus's death shows us the depth of God's love for all humanity. His death changed everything for all Christians; by dying on the cross he took the punishment for all our sins. Through Jesus our relationship with God is restored, and this is at the heart of the Christian faith. Christ died a violent death; he suffered as many of our marginalized brothers and sisters suffer. Jesus died because of hate, fear, and a thirst for power. How many black and brown men and women have died a senseless death because of greed and having no voice? People have been enslaved, tortured, beheaded for a conviction that does not value the dignity of human life. We watch on the news images of senseless dying and confrontations with no good end. We watch a war in Ukraine started by a

man seeking power and territory for his own gain. Many Russians and Ukrainians are dying wondering at what cost. Europe is at risk of being in a perpetual siege by Putin. The cycle of human suffering does not seem to have an end.

Let us pray: For all who have suffered a senseless death through the hands of people seeking power. For the marginalized who have been tortured, jailed, and discriminated against. For political prisoners facing a death sentence not knowing what they had done. For the homeless who die a senseless death because of starvation, cold weather, and the lack of compassion by people who just walk by. For a system which favors punishment and death rather than rehabilitation. For those who died for a crime, only later found out to have been wrongly accused. We pray for those who have lost their faith, who have never heard the word of salvation. For hearts hardened by indifference. **Amen.**

Hymn 172 Were you there when they crucified my Lord. v. 1

6 Were you there when they cru-ci-fed my Lord? Were you there when they cru-ci-fied my

12 Lord? Oh Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble,
trem-ble, trem- ble. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?

The Ninth Station: Jesus' Body is Taken Down from the Cross



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen clothes, according to the custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. —John 19:38-42

With a body already whipped and exhausted from carrying a heavy cross, his side has been pierced with a sword. Jesus' tortured body is taken down from the cross and prepared for burial, given to the care of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. It is a needless death, put on display for all to see without any

compassion for a human life. Suffering continues to lead to unnecessary deaths today, often due to institutions and laws that perpetuate a lack of compassion to others such as those who suffer from homelessness, addiction, or lack of adequate health care. During COVID, many people died alone or could not afford a proper burial. Individuals and nonprofits often step up, like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus to lend aid, such as *Person to Person* and funeral home directors that provide free burials for families that do not have the resources to honor their loved one with dignity.

Let us pray: Lord, you know every broken heart and every pain – those spoken and unspoken. There are many tears right now, Lord please draw near to all who are grieved. Remind us of your closeness and your presence; remind us that you are with us always, through tragedy and triumph. **Amen.**

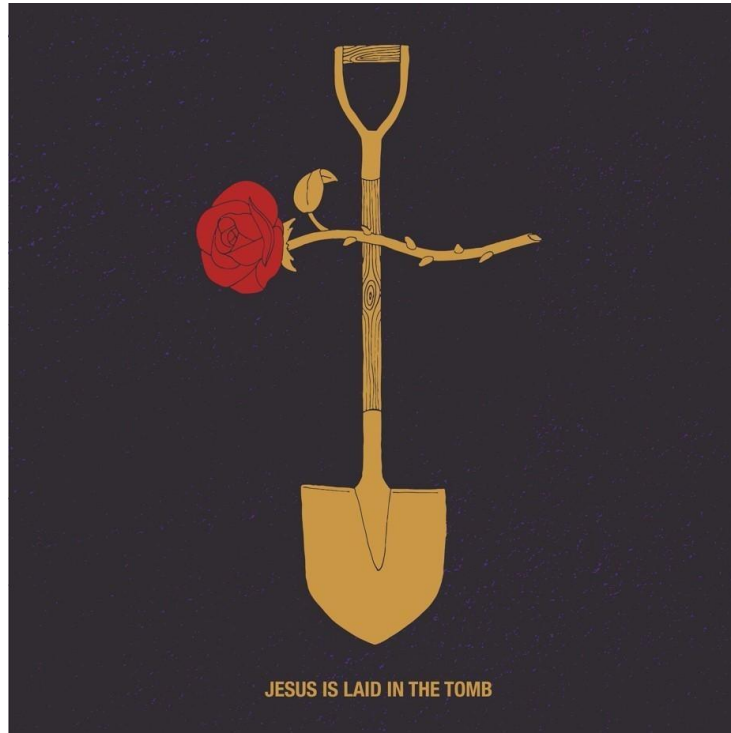
Hymn 172 Were you there when they crucified my Lord. v. 4

6 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid him in the

12 tumb? Oh Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble,

trem-ble, trem- ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The Tenth Station: Jesus' Body is Placed in the Tomb



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

People **Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

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 and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there sitting opposite the tomb.

—*Matthew 27:59-61*

Joseph takes loving care of Jesus, offering his own tomb to house Jesus' body. We are asked to care lovingly for God's creation, but how often we fail. Polluted rivers, smoke-filled air, landfills saturated with toxic-waste and plastic-filled oceans testify to our indifference and neglect. We place our dirtiest industries in the poorest communities, subjecting the children there to illness and injury. But the earth is not so big that we can fully insulate ourselves from the damage our lifestyle inflicts on it, as the emerging menace of climate change shows. Let us change our ways and show the same care for the earth and each other that Joseph showed for Jesus.

Let us pray: God of All Life, we give thanks for Earth, our common home, and ask forgiveness for all the unreasonable demands we have made on it. Our Earth, its many peoples, its oceans, wildlife, and ecosystems are struggling to survive. Help us to change our ways and guide us to live a life which is not centered on ourselves, but on all you have created. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Silence is kept.

A Confession of Sin

Officiant Happy are those whose sins are forgiven,
whose wrongs pardoned.
I will confess my sins to the Lord,
I will not conceal my wrongdoings.

Silence

God forgives and heals us.
**We need your healing, merciful God:
give us true repentance,
Some sins are plain to us;
some escape us,
some we cannot face.
Forgive us;
set us free to hear your word to us;
set us free to serve you.**

Officiant God forgives you.
Forgive others;
forgive yourself.

Silence

Officiant Through Christ, God has put away your sin:
approach your God in peace.

Officiant and People

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

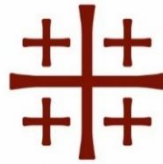
Officiant

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

The people leave in silence.

Tonight's Offering

Since 1922, Episcopalians have supported the ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East through the *Good Friday Offering*. Through the work of the Diocese of Jerusalem, Christians maintain a peacemaking and stabilizing presence in the region, serving their neighbors regardless of faith background. In support of this ministry, St Matthew's Good Friday offering is designated to the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem. We thank you for your generosity.



This evening we use two sets of Stations of the Cross, representations of the 14 Stations (sites in Jerusalem) remembered by Christians as part of the Via Dolorosa, *The Way of Sorrow*, walked by Jesus in Holy Week.

One set was produced by Scott Erikson, painter and author, whose work is available at scotteriksonartshop.com. Scott's representations are the larger, poster-sized scattered about the sanctuary.

The other set is permanently placed in the sanctuary (2003) done by Robert Natkin (1930-2010). Generous gifts by members of the parish in memory of loved ones provided these 16 representations/interpretations. Robert Natkin, with a Jewish background, interprets the Way of the Sorrow by integrating Jewish tradition with Christian symbols. His first and final station (Shema and Resurrection) tell of the importance of the hearing/seeing of the Law integrated with the gift and blessing of resurrection.

Worship Leaders

Officiant

The Rev. John H. Branson

Readers

The Rev. Dr. Tommy Watson,

Amy Gubner

Sharon Pearson

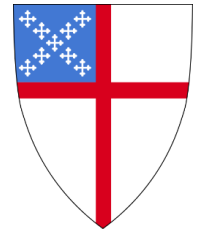
John Pearson

Music Director

Irina Georgieva

Worship Schedule at St. Matthew's

Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 10am



Please keep an eye on our website and social media as well as our e-news. You will find information to connect with friends and members of all ages.

Staff

Interim Rector	The Rev. John H. Branson, john@stmatthewswilton.org
Formation & Engagement	The Rev. Dr. Tommy Watson, tommy@stmatthewswilton.org
Director of Music Ministries	Irina Georgieva, irina@stmatthewswilton.org
Parish Administrator	Nancy Johnson, office@stmatthewswilton.org
Director of WEPCO	Donna Savage, wepco@optonline.net
Bookkeeper	Louann Miska, louann.miska@gmail.com
Technology Coordinator	Matthew Henshaw
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato
Sextons	Alix Williams, Jairo Mejia

Wardens and Officers

Warden	Pam Ely	Clerk	Jennifer DeAngelis
Warden	Keith DeAngelis	Asst. Treasurer	Brian Angerame
Treasurer	Rob Kyle		

The Vestry

Eleanor Arnold	Bob Giolitto	Endy Perry	Kimberly Olson
Brian Angerame	Becky Hudspeth	John Pearson	

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