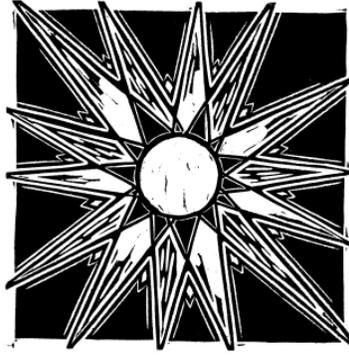




Good Friday

Christ Presbyterian Church

March 29, 2024 at 7pm



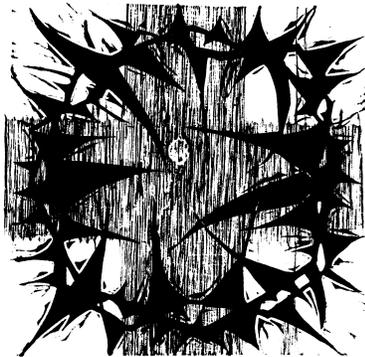
God is light
In God's light even our shadows cannot hide

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World

This is the judgment
that the light has come into the world
And we loved darkness rather than light

Prelude

Invitation



I. Jesus Suffers Our Agony

Luke 22.39-46

Meditation

Let us pray:

Look upon us, O God our Savior, with your merciful eye, and
accept our fervent confession.

Have mercy on us, O God, have mercy on us.

Sing together: **Ah, Holy Jesus #248**



II. Jesus Suffers Our Shame

Luke 22.47-65

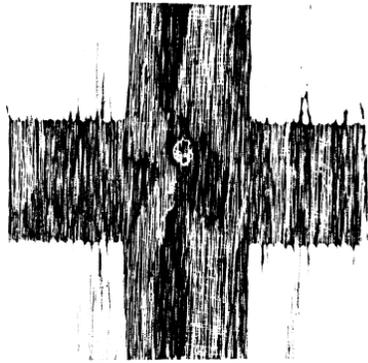
Meditation

Let us pray:

I confess to you, my Lord and Savior, that I have betrayed and denied you, forgotten and doubted you.

Lord have mercy.

Sing together: **O Sacred Head Now Wounded #247**



III. Jesus Suffers Our Injustice

Luke 22.66-23.25

Meditation

Let us pray:

O Lord, we openly admit that you know us thoroughly. Our deepest secrets are open before you. We cannot hide from you.

We loathe our bondage, our shame, and our guilt.

Lord have mercy.

Choir: Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted



IV. Jesus Suffers Our Estrangement

Luke 23.26-43

Meditation

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ, who stretched out your hands on the cross,
and redeemed me by your blood: pardon all the sins of my life,
of hard-heartedness, unbelief, pride, and of bringing dishonor
on your great name.

Lord have mercy on me.

Sing together: **How Deep the Father's Love for Us**



V. Jesus Dies Our Death

Luke 23.44-49

Meditation

HOMILY

Silent Reflection

Please maintain the silence in the building for those who wish to remain.

**We look forward to rejoicing together in the resurrection
on Sunday morning!**

Join us at 10:30am here at Christ Presbyterian Church.



The shoot growing from the stump of Jesse is a well-known Old Testament symbol of the promised Messiah. Here, at the center of the biblical account, Scripture uses the symbol of a tree to explain the profound mystery of life, death, and our need for renewed life.



The first day of the Lenten season reminds us of two things, as seen in this simple wooden cross. Suggested first is the ruggedness and earthiness of our sinfulness, our need for salvation, and the suffering and death of Christ on our behalf. Second, the ash from last year's palms, symbolized by the mark on this cross, reminds us not only of death but of the victory and joy of new life found in Christ.



To the Lenten cross of wood the symbol of thorns and thistles is added. In sharp contrast to a splendid, kingly crown, Jesus Christ bore a crown of thorns. As a reminder of the toil mentioned in the Genesis account of the fall, thorns represent the complete suffering, pain, and lowliness Jesus submitted to in placing our sins and God's judgment on himself.



The cedar has been a symbolic tree of the Mediterranean region since ancient times. The cedars found on the hillsides of Mount Lebanon were so treasured that they were Solomon's choice for the temple. When cedars are cut down they do not form new shoots. For this reason they symbolize death.



Throughout the Old and New Testament symbolic references to light abound, Jesus Christ is referred to as the bright morning star, the light of the world, the sun of righteousness. The imagery of the sun, in its life-giving yet blinding way, captures the awesomeness of God, a mystery we cannot grasp. This design captures the piercing rays of the sun which penetrate the dark.



The actual rising of Christ is not described in the gospels and for many years was not depicted in art. In the darkness of this print we are reminded of Christ's death. The tomb becomes the place where we see that death meets life, that the Son is reunited with the Father. And, with the mourning women who are the first witnesses to the empty tomb, we realize Jesus Christ is not here, yet he is present with us at the dawning of a new day.

Linoleum block prints by Elizabeth Steele Halstead



Cover Art: Upside Down Sunset by Daniel Bonnell

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