**COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

**April 18, 2014**

**Lake Harbor UMC**

Welcome and Announcements (Mark E.)

\*Call to Worship (Anita)

Leader: Fear and fascination drew observers to the first Holy Friday.

**People: We cannot flee from the pain and suffering which Jesus experienced on our behalf.** Leader: We wonder why one so faithful and loving had to face the agony ofrejection and death. **People: Jesus was wounded for our transgressions, and was bruised for our iniquities.**

Leader: In this time of worship, we join Jesus on his journey to Calvary, aware of our involvement in the cruelty there.

**People: Our faithfulness is tested at the cross and our lives are judged by our response.**

\*Opening Hymn #290 ''Go to Dark Gethsemane" (v. 1-3) Pastoral Prayer/Lord·s Prayer (Mark B.)

Introduction to Offering (Jeff)

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Offertory (Mary Scott)

Prayer of Dedication (Jeff)

'·Stations of the Cross: Ancient and Modern" (All)

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Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

**People: We love you, 0 Christ, and we praise you.**

*(Congregation leaves in silence ar the conclusion ofthe service.)*

**Good Friday Service**

**"Stations of the Cross: Ancient and Modern" April 18, 2014**

## JESUS IS CONDEMNED

Photo: Norton Shores City Hall

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: Mark 14:61-64 Jesus is condemned.

The City Hall before us is a place where civic leaders make decisions on issues of importance to us all.

Sometimes those decisions have costly personal and corporate consequence.

Beholding suffering prompts the question: Why would a man who healed the sick, befriended the weak, cared for children, dined with sinners, and honored women be condemned to death?

Why would a man who loved God be condemned by good people? Those who arranged for Jesus' arrest called themselves the people of God. They were people like us. Jesus' accusers were Godly people concerned about civic order.

We are uncomfortable with the memory of Jesus' condemnation and what Jesus' death tells us about ourselves. Our Lord, whose goodness exposed the sins of others, also sheds light on our sin.

Confronting our racism might affect our property values. Addressing our prison problem will require dealing with our taste for alcohol and other drugs. Winning the war on poverty may mean a lower rate of return on our pensions. Reducing violence could require editing our favorite entertainment. A world where the Kingdom of Heaven reigns could mean that we live with less so that others may live. Receiving Christ's forgiveness reminds us of those from whom we are estranged.

Counting the cost of discipleship helps us understand how crowds who cheered Jesus as King on Palm Sunday could gather to shout, "Crucify Him," on Good Friday. Christ have mercy. Jesus, we walk with you today, accused. Lord, may this journey help us to understand your walk to the cross for us.

#504 "Old Rugged Cross" (v.1)

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, The emblem of suff'ring and shame;

And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

## JESUS TAKES HIS CROSS

Photo: Picnic Shelter at Ross Park

Leader :By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you, 0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: John I 9:14-17

Jesus takes up his cross. We pause to remember.

Isn't it ironic that the son of a carpenter should end his life on a wooden cross? The same skills that are needed to build picnic tables for family reunions were used to make an instrument of torture and death. Jesus' cross was probably built by a good person just trying to get along and feed a family.

We remember. Jesus' cross reminds us of the fine line between good and evil, between life and death. The capacity for good and for evil is in each of us. Our habits, our investments, our priorities, our relationships can yield good fruit or toxic waste. Lord have mercy. Help us to offer our labors for your good. May we take up our cross daily and follow you.

### #504 "Old Rugged Cross" (v.2)

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, Has a wondrous attraction for me;

For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above To bear it to dark Calvary.

### Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

# JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Photo: Vietnam Veterans' Memorial at Sunrise Memorial Gardens

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

# People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: John 15: I 8-20

Falling happens. As we see this memorial in honor of our veterans we are mindful that even today there will be people who will fall for us in many different ways. Hospitals give daily testament to what happens when people fall. We bruise. We break. The Bible reminds us that we are all fallen creatures. Evidence of our fallen nature is ever before us. Jesus fell under the weight of his cross, under the burden of his beating, under the load of his sacrifice. We pause to remember.

We remember. We pray for those who have fallen. We often fall trying to follow Jesus. God forgive us for those times when we have fallen and blamed you. Forgive us for those times when others have fallen and we have not reached out to help them up. Help us to extend a hand of support to those in need.

### #504 "Old Rugged Cross" (v.3)

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine, A wondrous beauty I see,

For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died, To pardon and sanctify me.

### Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

## JESUS MEETS HIS MOTHER

Photo: Seminole Shores Nursing Home

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: John 19: 26-27

Jesus' mother was present to witness his suffering and his death. We remember the deep bonds of affection that mothers have for their children and the deep pain that is like none other when a mother experiences the suffering and death of her child. May we each be sensitive to grief in our world and understand that God knows this pain and mothers do to. We see before us a place that has been set aside in our community for senior citizens. We are mindful that there are likely mothers living here who know what it is to lose a child.

#504 "Old Rugged Cross" (v. 4)

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true; Its shame and reproach gladly bear;

Then He'll call me some day to my home far away, Where His glory forever I'll share.

Refrain:

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross, Till my trophies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rugged cross,

And exchange it some day for a crown.

## SIMON HELPS JESUS CARRY HIS CROSS

Photo: Norton Shores Fire Station

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: Mark 15:20-22

Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus to carry his cross.

Sometimes life is heavier than we can carry alone. Thank God for others who help to shoulder our burdens. This *fue* station is a reminder that we live in a place where we come together for many reasons because we need each other: to fight fires, provide rescue services, to respond to emergencies. Like Simon of Cyrene we are a people who know how to help others shoulder their load.

Lord Jesus, we thank you for those who support us in the journey of faith. Help us to use our abilities not just for ourselves but also for the sake of your greater community and for the sake of Jesus

#99 "My Tribute"

To God be the glory, to God be the glory To God be the glory for the things he has done

With his blood he has saved me With his power he has raised me

To God be the glory for the things he has done Just let li my life and

Let it be plea's\_ing Lord to thee

And if I gain any praise,, let it go to Calvary With his b/ood he-h s saved me

With his power he has raised me

To God be the glory for the things he has done

## VERONICA WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS

Photo: Johnson Cancer Center at Mercy Hospital

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: Matthew 25:40

There is no Biblical reference supporting this tradition of the Roman Catholic Church that a woman, named Veronica wiped the face of Jesus with her veil while he was laboring to carry his cross. The veil was reputed to be permanently imprinted with the face of Christ and miraculous properties were attributed to this piece of cloth that reportedly is kept at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome where it was a popular object of veneration during the Middle Ages.

We remember the countless saints among us who recognize a human need and step up to meet that need with no thought ofrecognition. May we each be moved by Veronica's compassion for Jesus to exercise compassion of our own for Jesus' sake. We see in this photo a place where people who are burdened and in pain experience empathy and kindness from those who have accepted the calling to be agents of compassion.

**#2Bi "0 Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (v .1)**

0 sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,

now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown: how pale thou art with anguish,

with sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

## JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME

Location: Muskegon Rescue Mission

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: Isaiah 53:4-6

Jesus fell again. We pause to remember.

As we see this photo of the Muskegon Rescue Mission we are reminded that many in our world have fallen. We live in a world where many live with burdens that cause them to stumble: unemployment, addictions, handicapping conditions, family circumstances. We are reminded again of our fallen humanity and that Jesus shoulders our burdens on his way to be crucified. It is a heavy load that causes even Jesus to stumble. Our Lord fell again under the weight of his cross. God has been where we are.

Jesus fell. Falling is a part of life. When we fall Lord, help us to stand again with you. Thank you for all those ootiwiit-Im:tcrstri'es;,iccept your calling to assist those in life who have fallen.

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### #286 "0 Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (v. 2)

What thou, my Lord, has suffered was all for sinners' gain;

mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.

Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place; look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.

## JESUS MEETS THE DAUGHTERS OF JERUSALEM

Photo: Michigan Works Office on Norton Ave.

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: Luke 23:27-28

A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children, for indeed, the days are coming when people will say, 'Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed.' At that time, people will say to the mountains, 'Fall upon us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!' for if these things are done when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"

We see here a place where people come to seek employment in a time of great economic challenges. We recall how Jesus warned those who mourn for him that we would face challenging days ahead. May we keep our focus on the faithful living that really matters.

### #286 "0 Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (v.3)

What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend, for this thy dying sorrow,

thy pity without end?

0 make me thine forever; and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love for thee.

## JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME

Photo: Shoreline Sport and Spine on Van Wagoner Road

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: Psalm 37:23-24

We pause to remember how Jesus fell again. Beaten, bloodied, bruised, weakened. He fell for a third time. We stand at this office of persons who specialize in helping those who have fallen. Sooner or later most ofus will fall and need help. We are aware of human vulnerability.

Lord Jesus, you know and we know how often we fall. Some of us know what it is like to be broken by life. Thank you for friends we find who share the weight of our burdens. Help us to show your love to those in our lives that are bearing some heavy crosses.

**#289 "Ah, Holy Jesus" (v. 1)**

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?

By foes derided, by thine own rejected,

0 most afflicted!

## JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

Photo: Omni Fitness Center

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: John 19:23-24

There are times in life when we glory in our bodies. This photo shows us a place for those who come to feel good about their bodies, to strengthen their bodies, to extend and enhance life, to exercise healthy habits.

It is an act of humiliation and shame to be stripped in public against the will. To have a body laid bare to ridicule and the lash. The son of God was brought low by human cruelty. In this act we can see the depth of God's love for us and the cruel capacities of humanity.

**#289 "Ah, Holy Jesus" (v. 2)**

Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?

Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee! 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

## CRUCIFIXION: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Photo: Hackley Park

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: John 19:17-18

Jesus was nailed to a cross. This act of cruelty was meant to send a message. Don't mess with tradition, don't threaten authority, don't confront oppressive power. Jesus was crucified in a very public place along a main road with the assent of public officials.

This photo of the public square of our own city reminds us of the public nature of the crucifixion, that it happened in such a place to remind his followers of what could happen if they refused to submit to those in power.

### #288 "Were You There" (v.1)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there when God raised him from the tomb?

## JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Photo: Large wooden cross

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you.

Reading: John 19:19, 28-37

Jesus died. He was human as are we. Death is the cessation of life, followed by grief for loved ones left behind. There is afinality to death. The scene is horrific.

We see this photo of a cross and remember the sign that hung on the cross for all to see: Jesus of Nazareth, King of Jews. What an unusual king! A king who dies that we might live.

### #292 "What Wondrous Love Is This" (v. 1)

What wondrous love is this, 0 my soul, 0 my soul!

What wondrous love is this, 0 my soul!

What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

## JESUS' BODY IS REMOVED FROM THE CROSS

Photo: Sytsema Funeral Home on Harvey Street

Leader: By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you. John 19: 38-40

Jesus' body was removed from the cross. People wanted to follow the traditions of death-preparing the body, and finding a place to entomb it. This photo reminds us that we have similar traditions when death touches us, and those to help us through those difficult times. What Jesus' followers didn't realize was that in his case, following these traditions was not necessary, since there was no tomb that could hold him. May we also remember that for us, because of the events that were to happen in the days to come, we too have been given the gift of eternal life.

### #289 "Ah, Holy Jesus" (v. 3)

Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered; the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered.

For our atonement, while we nothing heeded, God interceded.

## JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB

Photo: Panoramic view of Mona View Cemetery

Leader : By your death on the cross and your resurrection you have redeemed the world.

### People: We love you,0 Christ, and we praise you. Matthew 27:59-60

Golgatha, the hill where Jesus was crucified was a dramatic outcropping of rock outside the city wall of Jerusalem so that the crucifixion would be seen by everyone coming into the city. The grave where Jesus' was laid was hewn in the nearby hillside very near to where he died. Today in Jerusalem the church of the Holy Sepulcher is built over the entire site of Jesus' death and burial. Jesus was taken from the cross and laid in that nearby tomb. Those who took his body loved Jesus but were unable to prevent his crucifixion. There was sadness as the door to Jesus' tomb was sealed with a large stone.

This photo is of a place in our community where persons come to be alone and to grieve significant loss. But even here, there are signs of new life-budding trees, blooming flowers, sounds of children playing at a nearby park.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, reliving your death by remembering these Stations of the Cross reminds us of our human frailty. We do sin. We do suffer loss. We do know death.

Lead us through the valley of the shadow of death to the dawning of Easter hope. We thank you for your presence with us on this journey. ln your name we pray, Amen.

Friends, go now in peace and silence awaiting the resurrection.