



APRIL 2, 2021 GOOD FRIDAY

See what's happening in [Youth](#) and [Children's Ministries](#)

Check our website for opportunities to [Serve](#) by providing a meal or making care calls

[Give](#) to our church's mission and ministries

Schedule for Holy Week & Easter:

Good Friday – 7:00 PM online only

Easter Sunday – 9:30 AM outdoors (church soccer field) & online

Easter Egg Hunt – 10:30 AM outdoors (immediately following Easter worship)

Worship After Easter:

Sunday, April 11 – “The 7 Next Words” | 9:30 AM Online only

Sunday, April 18 – May 16

“Finding Hope in Challenging Times”
9:30 AM Indoors In-Person & Online

Contact us:

Children/Youth Ministry:

Lauren Wilken
lauren.wilken@polkcityumc.org

Pastor:

Melody Webb
melody.webb@polkcityumc.org
314-630-0768

STATIONS — OF THE — CROSS



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Worship online: [Facebook Live](#) or on our [Website](#)

All words for communal speaking & singing are included below. You are encouraged to either speak the words in bold aloud as you worship, and to sing out your praise, or to attend to these words for worship and meditate on their meaning.

You are also invited to greet one another and post prayer requests in the [Facebook](#) comments or to fill out the [website](#) connect card.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross is a liturgical way to reenact that journey as a meditation of worship, an act of devotion to God. Tonight we will combine the Stations of the Cross with a Tenebrae service, a Service of Darkness, in which candles will be extinguished after each of the eight biblical readings.

To enhance your worship, we are providing a “Stations of the Cross” devotional guide with questions for all ages as well as meditative coloring sheets. You can download these [HERE](#).

OPENING SONG

"The Wonderful Cross"

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: *O Lord, we are gathered together here this day as your people, as those who have been called out of darkness into your marvelous light. We are here only because you have loved us and been faithful across the generations that we might be your people. And yet we quickly confess that we are not worthy of that love.*

As we contemplate the Cross and what it means, we are filled with joy and wonder at the sacrifice that Jesus has made to show us light in the darkness and offer us life in the midst of death. We confess that we have nothing to offer in return for that sacrifice, nothing that will match such love. We know that only love can respond to such a gift. Yet we know that we are not always loving or lovable. But you remain steadfastly faithful to us. You love us even when we are not lovable, and remain steadfast in your grace that calls us to follow the example of Jesus who is the Christ.

We are committed to that journey, to be followers of the One who has given so much that we might be sons and daughters of God. But sometimes the journey that we take in following Jesus who is the Christ is not all light and joy. Sometimes the Way is rough and dimly lit. Sometimes the darkness of life threatens to engulf the light.

And so we cry out to you, O Lord. Forgive us for our sometimes faltering steps. Show us more clearly the Way. Shine anew the light of your presence into our lives so strongly that a new love for You will be kindled. Light within us a love beyond emotion and sentimentality, a love that is willing to lay aside all privilege and self-centeredness. Grow within us a love that is willing to surrender all our fears and uncertainties to you, that desires nothing more than to love God with all our being and to love those around us with the same faithfulness with which you love us.

Now, as we begin this journey of the Cross, we open our hearts and minds to you. We lay aside for these moments the trivialities of our life and bring ourselves into your presence. Speak to us what we need to hear. And help us to hear, not just the words that are spoken, but your Word spoken afresh in our hearts.

People: Speak, for your servants are listening.

[A short time of silent prayer and meditation]

Leader: Let us begin our journey.

STATION 1 – PILATE CONDEMNS JESUS TO DIE

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. . . . So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." . . . and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. (Matt 27:11-14, 24, 26b)

Reflection

Prayer: *Jesus, I see in your silence the quiet strength that reveals a peace and a resolve. O Lord, help me deal with the unfairness of life without becoming critical of others. Help me to be sensitive to the pain and feelings of others. Give me the courage to do what is right without being swayed by the demands of others.*

People: O Lord, hear our prayers.

SONG

"By His Wounds"

Donald Perschall & Angela Cupp

(the first candle is extinguished)

STATION 2 – JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. (Matthew 27:27-31)

Carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. (John 19:17)

Reflection

Prayer: *O Lord, forgive me for forgetting that in my weakness I am driven to trust on you, and that in such trust my weakness becomes your strength. Forgive my attitudes of self-pity that make me more repulsive than loving. I do not ask for crosses to bear. But when they come, give me the strength to bear them as one who follows your example.*

People: **O Lord, be merciful to us.**

SONG

"Lamb of God"
(the second candle is extinguished)

Thomas Webb

STATION 3 – SIMON HELPS CARRY THE CROSS

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. (Mark 15:21)

Reflection

Prayer: *O Lord, forgive me for becoming so preoccupied with myself that I have become deaf and blind to the grief and suffering of those around me. Forgive me for my indifference. Constantly remind me that I cannot love you without loving others as well. Help me always remember that to be a follower of yours means that I share in the burdens of others. Lord, show me someone whose cross I may help carry.*

People: **O Lord, hear our prayers.**

SONG

"Lamb of God"
(the 3rd candle is extinguished)

Melody Webb

STATION 4 – JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

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)

Reflection

Prayer: *O Lord, forgive my unwillingness to repent, to confess all that I am before you. Help me go beyond the repentance mouthed in words of false piety, to sweep away all the facades of who I try so hard to be before others, and recall who I really am inside. Help me once again and before God with a bare and open heart. Help me not just to repent in words, but to put that repentance into action in everything I am and do. O Lord, give me the gift of tears to weep for my own failures, for my sins, for the pain I bring to others, and to live the fruits of repentance.*

People: **O Lord, be merciful to us.**

SONG

“Lord, Have Mercy”
(the 4th candle is extinguished)

Lauren Wilken

STATION 5 – JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

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 fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did. (John 19:23-25a)

Prayer: *O Lord, forgive me for wanting to take the path of glory and reward. Forgive me for my selfishness that wants to serve you in easy ways and seeks the reward of others' praise. Lord, teach me the humility of spirit that replaces self-centeredness with a sacrificial spirit. Make me vulnerable so that I may follow your example. Help me see those around me who are in need. Give me the courage to lay aside the things that I use to hide from their need and find ways to minister to others as you have shown us.*

People: **O Lord, hear our prayers.**

SONG

“King of Kings”
(the 5th candle is extinguished)

STATION 6 – JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!" In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him. (Mark 15:23-32)

Reflection

Prayer: *O Lord, remind me of the deathly cost of sin. Forgive me for those things I have done that are displeasing to you. Forgive me for not allowing you to deal with the darkness that I harbor in the hidden recesses of my heart. Forgive me for fooling myself into believing that I am more righteous than I am, that I am better than others, and that I have no need to repent. Forgive me for those things I should have done, but found excuses not to do. O Lord, make me better than I am, transform me into what I can be by your grace.*

People: **O Lord, forgive us for those things we have done and those things we have left undone. In your grace, be merciful to us.**

SONG

“Were You There?”
(the 6th candle is extinguished)

STATION 7 – JESUS CARES FOR HIS MOTHER

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. (John 19:25b-27)

Reflection

Prayer: *O Lord, make me whole so that I may love with the compassion with which you love. Give me the courage to stand beside those who are hurting and share their pain. You know everything about me, my weakness, my faults, and my sin. Redeem me and*

make me new. Through your strength and by your grace, make me a conduit of your love, not just to the lovable, but to any who need to be cared for and loved.

People: O Lord, hear our prayers.

SONG

"The Wonderful Cross"
(the 7th candle is extinguished)

STATION 8 – JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." 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 15:33-39)

Reflection

Prayer: *O Lord, I cannot comprehend the depth and breadth of your love. There are not enough words in all languages together to describe what your love means to me. May my love for you and my love for all your children in some way reflect your love. Let this dark night become fertile soil for growth in your love and for our growth as a community of Faith. May you use this night to teach us how to love you and to love others the way you have loved us. O Lord, we long for newness, for hope, for renewal, for life where there is now death. Out of this darkness bring to us the light of a new dawn. O Lord, have mercy on us.*

People: O Lord, hear our prayers. We hope in you and trust in your mercy.

SONG

"Were You There?"
(the Christ candle is extinguished)