

## **Good Friday Drive-Through Service on the Great Lawn**

Friday, April 2, 2021, 6 PM

A joint service of Central Union, Nu'uano Congregational, and United Church of Christ – Judd Street

Good Friday is an invitation to enter into the story of Jesus Christ at its darkest moment. We follow the man of sorrows through the unjust trial, his crucifixion, and death. On this night, we are invited to ponder anew what the profound loss of Jesus means for us.

Tonight, we invite you to tune your radio to FM 88.5 and drive through our stations on Central Union's Great Lawn. At each station, you'll gaze upon works of art illustrating seven significant moments in Jesus' journey toward death. While pondering the picture, read the accompanying scripture and reflection. Pause to take note of the feelings that emerge, the details that strike you in the art, and contemplate the meaning of that moment for your life. At the final station, you will receive Holy Communion.

May the Spirit be at work in our hearts as we journey to the cross together.

### **Station 1: Jesus is Judged**

*As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." Then the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.* Mark 15:1-5

Too often, we are quick to judge others. We look at appearances, listen to what others say or silently determine another's worthiness. Pray that God would grant you a non-judgmental stance toward others. And pray for those who are most often judged—the marginalized, the poor and the houseless.

### **Station 2: Jesus is Scourged**

*Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.* John 19:1-3

Being mocked strikes deeper than the wounds of being flogged. Our words have a way of stealing the worth and joy of others. Pray for a tongue that only speaks words of love and grace.

### **Station 3: Peter Denies Jesus**

*Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know the man!" At that moment the cock crowed. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: "Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.* Matthew 26:74-75

We know the sting of betrayal. Pray for those who have betrayed and hurt you. Also, reflect on the times in which you have betrayed or hurt others. Asking for forgiveness may be God's healing ointment of grace.

#### **Station 4: Simon Helps Jesus**

*As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. Matthew 27:32*

We have the honor of helping to carry the burdens of others. Who can you pray for today while you help them carry their burdens?

#### **Station 5: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross**

*When they came to the place that is called 'The Skull', they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." Luke 23:33-34*

Jesus is falsely accused and sentenced. His response is forgiveness. Pray for those who are subjected to systems that perpetuate oppression. Also, who do you need to forgive, who has falsely accused you?

#### **Station 6: Jesus Speaks to his Mother**

*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 19:25-27*

Mothers have a profound role in our world. They nurture new generations and inspire us with their self-sacrificial love. Pray for the mothers in your life while giving thanks for the mothering women of the world.

#### **Station 7: Jesus Gives Up His Life**

*From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?".... And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. Matthew 27:45-46, 50*

*Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. Luke 23:46*

What does it mean for you that Jesus gave up his life? What sorrow wells up within your soul? Pray that God might help you to grasp the depth and width of God's unfailing love for you.

#### **Station 8: Holy Communion**

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 1 John 4:7*

Each time that we join together in holy communion, we profess our love not only for God, but for one another. May this Good Friday transform our hearts and minds anew. May we live into our call to be peacemakers, that we can prevent horrific acts of violence from touching any more families.