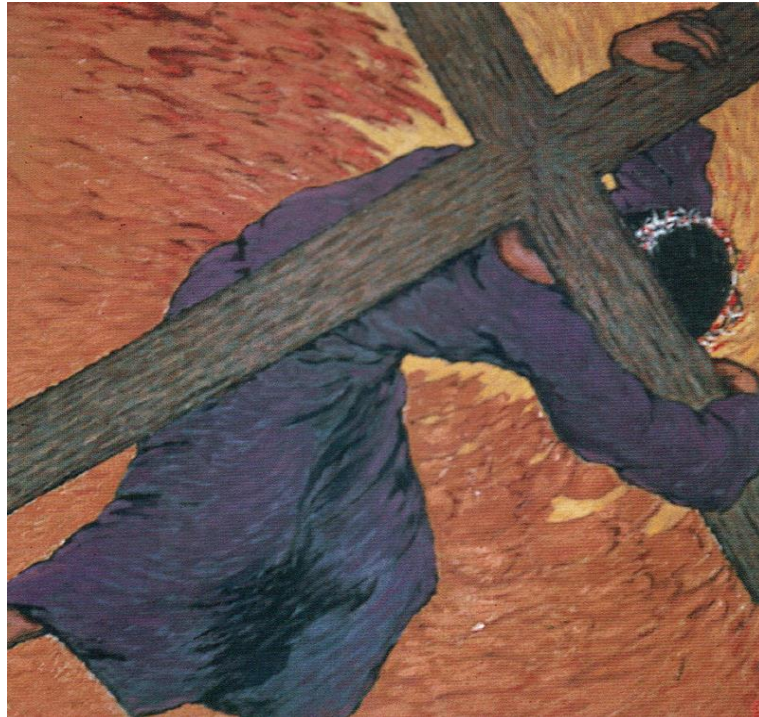


# **An Ecumenical Good Friday Worship Batavia, New York**

*Welcome*



*To Calvary, Frank Wesley*

## **St. James Episcopal Church**

The Rev. Canon Johnnie E. Ross

## **First Presbyterian Church**

The Rev. Dr. Roula Alkhairisiyi

## WELCOME

*We want to welcome you to this time of worship. We are blessed this evening to come together as siblings united by the love of Christ. This evening our worship is about the crucifixion of Jesus and the fear and injustice that surrounded that time. This is the evening when we remember the ultimate brokenness of Christ through his death on the cross. Yet, this evening as we remember the end of the story, we invite you to also look at its beginning with the birth of Jesus. We pray that by putting these two together, we may be able to reflect on the joy and fear of following the path of Jesus, the opportunity and the challenge of trusting God to lead our lives. Let us worship God. Please stand and join us in the call to worship.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

In hope, in longing:

**We're glad to come together.**

In solidarity with those who struggle:

**We're glad to come together.**

In resistance to those who dominate:

**We're glad to come together.**

In memory of Jesus, who lived with compassion:

**We're glad to come together.**

In memory of all who act with courage:

**We're glad to come together.**

## Hymn 171

### Dramatic Reading of Luke's Gospel

*Reader One:* In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

*Reader Two:* Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. I will therefore chastise him and release him.

*One:* And all went to be enrolled to their own cities. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

*Two:* But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released Barabbas, the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, who they asked for, but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

*One:* And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.

*Two:* And when they came to the place which is called the skull, there they crucified him and two criminals—one on the right and one on the left.

And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

*One:* And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths....

*Two:* And they cast lots to divide his garments.

*One:*... and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. And in that region there were shepherds out in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night.

*Two:* And the people stood by watching.

*One:* And an angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. And they were filled with fear! But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

*Two:* But the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his chosen One!"

*One:* And this will be a sign for you....

*Two:* While the sun's light failed, the curtain of the temple was torn in two. And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!"

*One:* You will find the babe wrapped in swaddling cloths....

*Two:* Then Joseph of Arimathea took down the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a linen shroud....

*One:* And lying in a manger.

*Two:* And laid him in a rock-hewn tomb.

*Two:* And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom God is pleased."

*One:* The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid, and returned and prepared spices and ointments.

*Two:* When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened that the Lord has made known to us!"

*One:* And on the first day of the week at early dawn they went to the tomb.

*Two:* And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

*One:* And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body.

*Two:* And when the shepherds saw the babe lying in the manger, they made known the saying which had been told them concerning the child.

*One:* While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Remember how they told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise."

*Two:* And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds had told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.

*One:* And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to the rest.

*Two:* And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for  
Dramatic Reading of Luke's Gospel

*One:* But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

*One:* The Word of God.

*Two:* Thanks be to God.

The Message

The Rev. Canon Johnnie E. Ross

Repeat the dramatic reading from Luke

Anthem

*My dying Lord*

*J. Parker*

*During the anthem we will take a collection for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and their work in Gaza.*

### Invitation to Pray for Healing and Wholeness

All of us are invited to receive the gift of healing and wholeness in our lives. This is the gift which will change and transform our inner lives to bring light and hope into the darkness and pain of our lives and our world. All are invited to come forward to be anointed. If you cannot come forward, please raise your hand and we will come to you.

### Thanksgiving for the Gift of Healing

Let us pray together: **Gracious God, source of all healing, in Jesus Christ you heal the sick and mend the broken. We bless you for this oil pressed from the fruits of the earth, given to us as a sign of healing and forgiveness, and of the fullness of life you give. By your Spirit, come upon all who receive this ministry of compassion, that they may receive your healing touch and be made whole, to the glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

### Anointing with Oil

*All are invited to come forward to be anointed, the minister or deacon dips her or his finger in the oil and makes the sign of the cross on the person's forehead saying:*

May God's healing bring you from darkness to light.

### Hymn 168

*O sacred head sore wounded*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

Blessing

The Rev. Dr. Roula Alkhairisiyi

*Many thanks to First Presbyterian for joining us today for prayer.*