



# *Duke Memorial United Methodist Church*

*Good Friday*

*April 18, 2003*

*7:00 p.m.*

## GATHERING

Please enter in an attitude of silent reflection and observe a time of personal prayer.

## WELCOME

## GREETING

Come to this place apart to pray;  
God, who has given us life, meets us here.  
Will God be revealed to us on this dark day?  
Has not God turned away and forsaken us?  
Come, all who are weary and discouraged,  
God, whom you have trusted, has not deserted you.  
Will God hear our cries and replenish our strength?  
Who can believe in the midst of such sorrow?  
Come, all who have laid loved ones to rest;  
God, who grieves with us, watches with us now.  
Will God's promise of new life be realized?  
How shall we know truth, when Trust is crucified?

\*HYMN #290 (verses 1-3)

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

REDHEAD 76

## THE PASSION STORY

## ANTHEM

"At the Cry of the First Bird"

Gilbert Martin

At the cry of the first bird, they began to crucify Thee, O cheek like a swan.

## PRAYER

On this darkest of days, we cry out against the contradictions we see and hear all around us. How, O God, can this day be called "Good"? If you are Almighty, why do you not intervene against our inhumanity? We seek you night and day, without answer or rest. Our tears flow and our fears multiply. Why must suffering mark the road to salvation? Why is goodness crucified before our eyes? Hear our groaning, O



God, and deliver us from the awful cruelty of Calvary. Amen.

## MEDITATIONS ON "WORDS FROM THE CROSS"

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|---|---------------------|
| 1. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."    | Timothy Turkington  |
| 2. "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise." | Maurice Ritchie     |
| 3. "Woman, behold your son."                                  | Lisa Brown Cole     |
| 4. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"                | Eilene Bisgrove     |
| 5. "I Thirst."  | R. Julian Irvine    |
| 6. "It is finished."  | Roger Loyd          |
| 7. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."             | Ruth Harper Stevens |

## DARKNESS DESCENDS

## THE LIGHT OF HOPE ENTERS THE WORLD

## BENEDICTION

Who has believed what we have heard? Who will go out to share the meaning of this day?

Surely the One who was despised and rejected has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

Who has trusted God and felt God's sheltering arms? Who has cried out and sensed God's rescuing presence?

We who have drawn near to the throne of grace go out to help others in their time of need.

Who will boldly claim the role of disciple under fire?

We, who are claimed, trusted, and equipped for service. We will follow even to the cross of suffering, for we know that death has no power over love and truth.

*THE CONGREGATION IS ASKED TO LEAVE IN SILENCE.*

