



He was  
wounded  
for our  
transgressions.

Isaiah 53:5

WELCOME TO SHILOH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
**GOOD FRIDAY**  
**A SERVICE OF THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
APRIL 15, 2022, 12:00 PM

**THE PRELUDE TO CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

*“Behold the Lamb of God!”*

Wesley

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray! Gracious God, 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 to us across the generations. We quickly confess that we are not worthy of that love. And so we cry out to you. Forgive us for our faltering steps, loving God. Show us more clearly the way, the truth, and the light. Shine your presence into our lives so strongly that a new love for you will be kindled. 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.**

*Silence*

**HYMN.** . . . . . *“Ab, Holy Jesus”* (Vs. 1-2). . . . . #218

Leader: Let us begin our journey.

**STATION 1: PILATE CONDEMNS JESUS TO DIE**

**READING:** Matthew 27:11-14, 24, 26b

*Meditation*

Leader: Let us pray! Jesus, I see in your silence the quiet strength that reveals a peace and a resolve. 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.**

*Silence*

**SPECIAL MUSIC.** . . . . . “*With Grief My Heart is Laden*”. . . . . Saxton

**STATION 2: JESUS ACCEPTS HIS CROSS**

**READING:** Matthew 27:27-31 and John 19:17

*Meditation*

Leader: Let us pray! O God, forgive me for forgetting that in my weakness I am driven to trust in you, and that in that 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.**

*Silence*

**HYMN.** . . . . . “*Ab, Holy Jesus*” (Vs. 3-4). . . . . #218

**STATION 3: SIMON HELPS CARRY THE CROSS**

**READING:** Mark 15:21

*Meditation*

Leader: Let us pray! Gentle God, 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. Show me someone whose cross I may help carry.

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

*Silence*

**HYMN.** . . . . . “*The Old Rugged Cross*” (Vs. 1-2). . . . . #195

**STATION 4: JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN**

**READING:** *Luke 23:27-31*

*Meditation*

Leader: Let us pray! Gracious God, 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 stand before you 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 Christ, 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.**

*Silence*

**SOLO** . . . . . “*Behold the Lamb*”. . . . . Rambo

**STATION 5: JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS**

**READING:** *John 19:23-25*

*Meditation*

Leader: Let us pray! Loving God, 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.**

*Silence*

**CHANCEL CHOIR.** . . . . . “*When Jesus Wept*”. . . . . Billings/Arr. Kern

**STATION 6: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS**

**READING:** *Mark 15:23-32*

*Meditation*

Leader: Let us pray! O Jesus, 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 God, 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.**

*Silence*

**HYMN.** . . . . . “*The Old Rugged Cross*” (Vs. 3-4). . . . . #195

**STATION 7: JESUS CARES FOR HIS MOTHER**

**READING:** *John 19:25b-27*

*Meditation*

Leader: Let us pray! O God, 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 channel of your love, not just to the lovable, but to all people who need your care.

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

*Silence*

**HYMN.** . . . . . “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*” (Vs. 1&3). . . . . #226

**STATION 8: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

**READING:** *Mark 15:33-39*

*Meditation*

Leader: Let us pray! Everlasting God, I cannot comprehend the depth 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 day become fertile soil for growth in your love and for our growth as a community of Faith. May you use this day to teach us how to love you and to love others the way you have loved us.

O Lord, we long for hope, for renewal, and 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.**

*Silence*

Leader: We hope for the dawning of a new day. We hope for God to bring newness out of endings. But today . . . go home. There is nothing more to see. Jesus is dead.

*A loud noise (strepitus, "great noise") symbolizes the closing of Jesus' tomb. Worshipers are invited to remain silently in prayer, and then leave in silence.*

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➤ **READERS:** Jeanie Bentzel, Stephanie Berkheimer, Brian Curren, Susan Emmons, Ray Fox, Joan Hamme, Jane Harrison, Brad Jacobs, Tom Klunk, Joyce Mummert, Marsha Reiber and Pat Roth.

➤ **USHERS AND GREETERS:** Members of Consistory



During Lent, the Sunday school classes are collecting offerings for the **Friends and Neighbors of Pennsylvania**. This group is based in York and cares for the homeless. They go out daily to find the homeless wherever they are living - under bridges, in tents etc. The group makes the homeless aware of upcoming severe weather conditions and attempts to provide resources where they can be safe. They also provide tents, sleeping bags, long underwear and other supplies for daily living. If you would like to help the Sunday School classes, you can mark your offering envelope with Sunday School -Lent or use another envelope marked for the Sunday School Lent offering. The **special Easter envelopes** will also be used to collect for the Friends and Neighbors of Pennsylvania.

### THE CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.  
pastormelinda@shilohucc.com  
717-764-3569

**Pastor Melinda office hours: Please call for an appointment**  
**Wednesdays 9AM-2PM & 5-8PM**  
**Thursdays 9:00-11:30AM & 6-8:30PM**  
**Fridays 9AM-2PM**

Director of Music Stephanie Limbert  
Organist Sandra Bamberger  
Missionaries in Costa Rica Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson  
Early Learning Center Director Allison Hartnett  
Administrative Assistant Maira Rivera  
office@shilohucc.com

Website: [www.shilohuccyorkpa.org](http://www.shilohuccyorkpa.org)

Facebook Page [www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa](http://www.facebook.com/shilohuccyorkpa)

