

## WORSHIP LEADERS

### *Liturgists*

The Reverend John Wright  
The Reverend Michael Mumme  
The Reverend Cathy Stone

### *Organist*

Scott Davis

### *Cantor*

Wendi Olinger

## COVER IMAGE

Salvador Dali's *Christ of St. John of the Cross*

## MARCH 27

### ***Easter Sunday Services***

8:45 and 10:45 a.m., Pre-service Music

9:00 and 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary

Sermon: "Easter, Really?"

As with Christmas, so also with Easter, we often take its meaning for granted. But do we know the real meaning of Easter? If we did, the Christian Church would be filled with such explosive power and hope that we would change the world! Come and find out why.

### ***Family Butterfly Release***

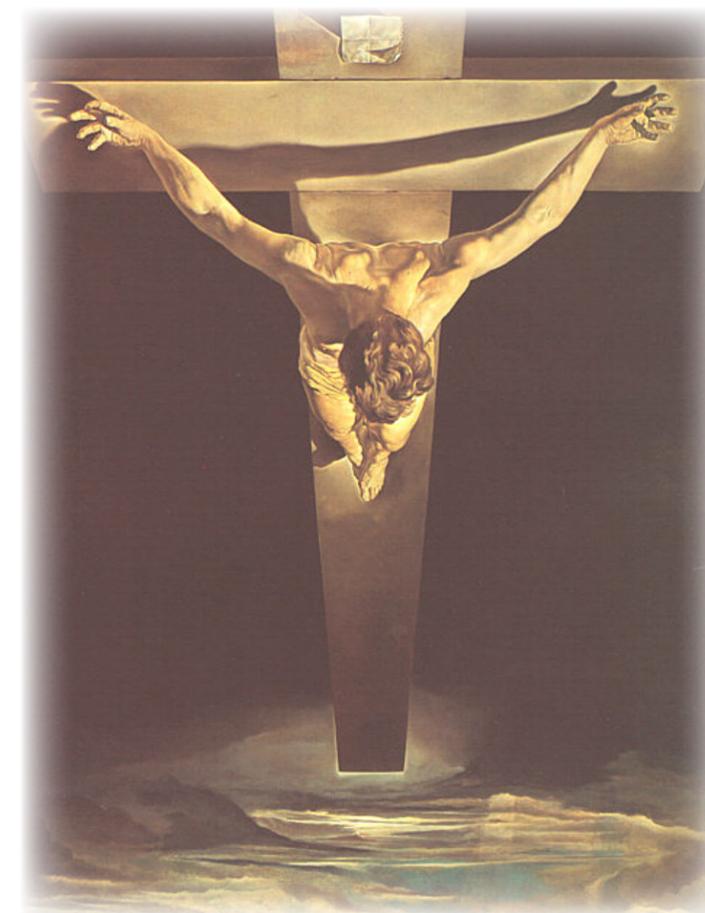
10:15 a.m., Capitol Grounds

This will take the place of Children's Sunday School on Easter.

## GOOD FRIDAY

March 25, 2016

12:15 p.m.



*Now is the judgment of this world.  
Now the ruler of this world will be driven out.  
And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,  
will draw all people to myself.*

*John 12:31-32*

## GATHERING

*On this solemn day the service begins without a prelude.*

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?

Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow?

**Behold, the Lamb of God,**

**who takes away the sin of the world.**

O my people, what have I done to you?

Or in what have I offended you? Answer me!

**Have mercy on us.**

\* **HYMN** 297      Beneath the Cross of Jesus      Stanzas 1 and 2

### OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Holy God—all that we are not—**

**whose love, unlike ours, knows no limits:**

**graciously behold, we humbly pray, this your family,**

**for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing**

**to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies**

**and to suffer death on the cross.**

**Today, as we kneel at the foot of his cross,**

**to wait and to watch with him there,**

**help us to see what it cost you to love the human race**

**and to see ourselves for what we are:**

Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?"

**I am here.**

Peter, slave of fear, where are you?"

**I am here.**

Thomas, slave of doubt, where are you?"

**I am here.**

Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?"

**I am here.**

Men and women of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule,  
where are you?"

**We are here.**

We all are here as slaves of sin;

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

\* **GOSPEL READING** John 12:27-32

### INTERPRETATION OF THE GOSPEL *Parable*

### PRAYER

**Crucified God,**

**what have you done to deserve this?**

**and what have we done to deserve you?**

**To the mystery of undeserved suffering,**

**you bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love.**

**Forgive us for not knowing what we have done.**

**Open our eyes to see what you are doing now,**

**as, through wood and nails,**

**you disempower our depravity**

**and transform us by your grace.**

### MEDITATION BEFORE THE CROSS

*During this time, as we sing the hymns of the passion, you are invited to pray in your pew, or you may come forward, whenever you feel moved to do so, to kneel at the rail to pray. Or you may come into the chancel to kneel around the icon of the cross, as they do in the Taizé community in France. You may want to touch the cross, or even to rest your head upon it, as a way of thanking Jesus for what he has done for you or as a way of giving to him burdens that you are carrying, believing that "by his wounds, we are healed." We begin this meditation with the following anthem:*

Hymn 286      O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Hymn 288      Were You There

Hymn 292      What Wondrous Love Is This

\* **HYMN** 298 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

*"And I, when I am lifted up, will draw all people to myself."*

+ + +

### UNISON PRAYER

Let us pray:

**God beyond all understanding,**

**when your Son was lifted up on the cross,**

**the light of your love exposed sin and evil for what it is.**

**You turned the apparent defeat of the cross**

**into the victory of your grace.**

**You converted us back to you,**

**so that we stepped down from the throne of our lives,**

**becoming clowns for Christ**

**and following your Son into your brave new world,**

**which he opened up to us through his resurrection.**

**We pray now that the whole world may come to know**

**that things which were cast down are being raised up,**

**and things which had grown old are being made new,**

**and that all things are being brought to their perfection**

**by the One through whom all things were made**

**and by whose love all things are redeemed,**

**Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**who lives and reigns with you,**

**in the unity of the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*There is no benediction or dismissal on Good Friday in recognition of the fact that this act of worship is not complete until the celebration of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Those who wish may stay to pray and meditate in the quietness of this moment. Whenever you are ready, please leave the church in complete silence.*

### SILENCE

*Let all keep silence until all have departed.*