

Duke
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL

BRIDGING FAITH & LEARNING

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

Good Friday

Friday, April 3, 2026, 11:30 a.m.

Service continues at 12-noon



Giotto di Bondone, *Kiss of Judas*, 1304–1306.

On Good Friday, Christians recall the crucifixion and death of Jesus. Although Good Friday is one of the saddest days of the Christian year, the Church continues to call it “good,” believing that Christ’s suffering and death were not in vain but served to liberate humanity from sin and death. Scripture tells us that the earth went dark at the “sixth hour,” or noon. The service begins with a procession of the stations of the cross on the Chapel lawn followed by a simple, sparse service of scripture, preaching, and reflective music. We remember with deep sorrow the sacrificial suffering and death of an innocent man who is revealed to be the Son of God.

The Procession of the Stations of the Cross

The procession will begin on the Chapel steps. For each station, the presiding minister will announce the station, all will read scripture, a speaker will share a reflection, the presiding minister will ask a question that Jesus asked his onlookers in the gospels, and all will finish with prayer. When the trumpeter begins playing, please follow the procession to the next station. At the end of the procession, all are welcome to continue worship in the Chapel sanctuary.

I. Jesus Is Condemned to Death

(Isaiah 53:7-8; Matthew 52:55)

Scripture: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth...
By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit?”

Prayer: With Christ’s sentence, help us remember all those who have been chased as bandits, arrested with violence, and convicted in unjust trials.

II. Jesus Bears His Cross

(Mark 15:20; John 6:61)

Scripture: After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple robe and put his own clothes on him.
Then they led him out to crucify him.

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Does this offend you?”

Prayer: As Jesus shoulders his cross, amid the mockery and stares, help us not to look away in shame.

III. Jesus Falls for the First Time

(Genesis 3:17-19; John 7:19)

Scripture: By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Why are you looking for an opportunity to kill me?”
Prayer: As we see Jesus fall, reveal to us those who are trembling at our feet in the dust.

IV. Jesus Meets His Mother on the Way *(Luke 2:33; Matthew 12:48)*

Scripture: Simeon said to Mary,
“This child is destined for the falling and the rising
of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed...
And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?”
Prayer: In Mary’s presence, help us remember all those who care for the convicted, who will not let them walk the painful path of life and death alone.

V. Simon of Cyrene Helps Carry Jesus’ Cross *(Luke 23:26; Mark 8:17-18)*

Scripture: As they led him away,
they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene,
who was coming from the country,
and they laid the cross on him
and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes and still do not see?”
Prayer: Lord, you could not bear the cross alone, and we did not offer to carry it. We remember all those whose labor is extracted and exploited as we keep our hands clean.

VI. A Woman Wipes the Face of Jesus *(Luke 7:44-47; Matthew 26:10)*

Scripture: Jesus said to Simon: “Do you see this woman?
You gave me no water for my feet,
but she has bathed my feet with her tears
and dried them with her hair...
She has shown great love.”

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Why do you trouble this woman?”

Prayer: As a woman cleans the face of Christ, we remember all those whose bleeding bodies are treated with shame, rather than care and compassion.

VII. Jesus Falls for the Second Time

(Job 30:17; Luke 5:23)

Scripture: “And now my soul is poured out within me;
days of affliction have taken hold of me.
The night racks my bones,
and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest.”

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or ‘Stand up and walk?’”

Prayer: Lord, in your falling, may we remember all those whose chronic conditions put them at the mercy of the calculating crowd.

VIII. Jesus Rebukes the Daughters of Jerusalem

*(Luke 23:27–28;
John 1:38)*

Scripture: A great number of the people followed him,
and among them were women
who were beating their breasts
and wailing for him.
But Jesus turned to them and said,
“Daughters of Jerusalem,
do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves
and for your children.”

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “What are you looking for?”

Prayer: Lord, we seek a spectacle for the present moment. You show us a vision of salvation for all future generations.

IX. Jesus Falls for the Third Time

(Job 17:15–16; Matthew 16:9)

Scripture: “Where then is my hope?
Who will see my hope?
Will it go down to the bars of Sheol?
Shall we descend together into the dust?”

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Do you still not understand?”

Prayer: At this place, we pray for the weak taunted by the strong, the persecuted crushed by the powerful. We pray, and we realize that Christ is here, under the stamping foot.

X. Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments

(Mark 15:24; Luke 9:25)

Scripture: And they crucified him
and divided his clothes among them,
casting lots to decide what each should take.

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?”

Prayer: Lord, all is taken from you, and profit is made from the plunder. Help us to see all those who are stripped and dispossessed in our midst.

XI. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross

(Luke 23:33; Matthew 20:32)

Scripture: 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.

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “What do you want me to do for you?”

Prayer: Lord, we gather in a moment when our words fail,
and all we can do is witness together in this despair.

XII. Jesus Dies on the Cross

(Psalm 22:2, 14, 15b; Mark 15:34)

Scripture: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.
I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast...
you lay me in the dust of death.

Reflection

Leader: Jesus cries, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Crowd stands in silence.

XIII. Jesus Is Given to Those Who Would Bury Him

(Mark 15:42–45; 10:38)

Scripture: Joseph of Arimathea,
a respected member of the council,
went boldly to Pilate
and asked for the body of Jesus.
When Pilate learned from the centurion that he was dead,
he granted the body to Joseph.

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Are you able to drink the cup that I drink,
or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

Prayer: Lord, when we have every chance to preserve our status quo
and slip away from suffering, give us the strength to abide
with your broken body.

XIV. Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb

(Mark 15:46–48; John 21:16)

Scripture: Then Joseph bought a linen cloth,
and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth,
and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.
He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.
Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus
saw where the body was laid.

Reflection

Leader: Jesus asks us, “Do you love me?”

After a moment of silence, the service continues inside Duke Chapel. All are invited to follow the cross into the sanctuary. The congregation is asked to remain silent during the opening voluntary as a time of prayer and meditation.

Gathering

Prelude

Stabat Mater, Op. 8

Jeanne Demessieux
(1921–1968)

O Welt ich muss dich lassen, Op. 122, Nos. 3 and 11
(O World, I Must Leave Thee)

Johannes Brahms
(1833–1897)

*Gathering Hymn | UMH 298

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG

Proclamation

Prayer of Illumination | In unison:

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed, given up into hostile hands, and suffer death for our salvation. Shape our lives according to the pattern of your Son’s cross, that as we share in your Son’s crucifixion, we may come to share also in the glory of his resurrection. Amen.

New Testament Lesson | NT pages 206–207 in the pew Bible.

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*All rise as able

*Gospel Lesson | NT pages 29–30 in the pew Bible.

Matthew 26:69–75

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

A State of Denial

Call to Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

Prayers of the People | The congregation responds to each petition:

People: Hear our prayer.

Anthem

Crux Fidelis

attrib. King João IV of Portugal
(1604–1656)

Crux fidelis, inter omnes arbor una nobilis:
nulla silva talem profert, fronde, flore, germine.
Dulce lignum, dulces clavos, dulce pondus sustinet.

*Faithful cross, high above all others, noblest of trees,
nothing so blessed has grown there, not branches or blossoms.
Sweet wood, sweet nails, sweet burden hanging on you. Amen.*

—*St. Venantius Fortunatus (c. 530–c. 609)*

Sending Forth

All may depart in silence after the ministers recess.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers

Lyn Pace *Assistant Dean of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel*
Meg Greto *Chapel Scholar; Divinity '26*
Luke A. Powery *Dean, Duke University Chapel*

Preacher

Mycal Brickhouse *Director of Programs and Grants,
Leadership Education at Duke Divinity School*

Lector

Austin Sandoval *Chapel Scholar; Fuqua '27*
Tim Nicholson *Divinity '26*

Musicians

Paul Neebe *Trumpet*
Duke Chapel Evensong Singers *Choir*
Philip Cave *Conductor-in-Residence, Duke University Chapel*
David Lim *Organ Scholar, Duke University Chapel*

Today's Guest Preacher | Rev. Dr. Mycal Xavier Brickhouse is a servant-leader whose journey in ministry is rooted in a deep commitment to faith, education, and community. Ordained as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, his ministry has included pastoring in North Carolina, deepening alumni engagement as Director of Alumni Relations at Duke Divinity School, and now, shaping institutional impact as the Managing Director of Programs and Grants at Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. In addition to his work at Duke, he serves as the Director of Outreach and Church Expansion at Baptist Grove Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, where he leads strategic efforts to extend the church's reach and witness into the broader community. Whether in the academy or the local church, Rev. Brickhouse brings a consistent call to form leaders, cultivate connection, and embody the gospel through justice and joy.

ACCESSIBILITY

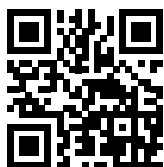
Hearing assistance technology, as well as large-print worship guides and hymnals, is available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. For other accommodations, please approach a minister or usher.

RESTROOMS

For public restrooms, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and turn left to enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the Divinity School hallway.

LEARN MORE AND ENGAGE

Scan the QR codes to learn more about the missions and ministries of Duke Chapel and the Congregation at Duke University Chapel. Also, read this week's announcements, see upcoming events, and find out how to engage with the Chapel and the Congregation.



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