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

(Acts 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

(Proverbs 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
Opening Voluntaries

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

Johannes Brahms (1833–1897)

*Opening Hymn | UMH 298

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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.


Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson | NT pages 107–108 in the pew Bible.

John 19:1–34

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

*All rise as able
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

Miserere mei, Deus

William Byrd (c. 1540–1623)

Miserere mei, Deus: secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.
Et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum:
dele iniquitatem meam.

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness: according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offenses.
Wash me throughly from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my sin.

—Psalm 51:1–2

Sending Forth
All may depart in silence after the ministers recess.

TODAY IN WORSHIP

Ministers (Stations of the Cross)
Kathryn Lester-Bacon ............... Director of Religious Life, Duke University Chapel
Racquel C.N. Gill .............. Minister for Intercultural Engagement, Duke University Chapel

Speakers (Stations of the Cross)
Philemon Abel ............. Intern for Religious Life and Community Engagement; Divinity ’25
Jovita Byemerwa................................. Chapel Scholar, Graduate ’23
Jeff Compton-Nelson .... Assistant Director of Field Education and Vocational Formation, Duke Divinity School;
Kenyon Davenport................. Visitor Relations Assistant, Duke University Chapel
Mitchell Eithun ................. Intern for Worship and Student Engagement; Divinity ’25
Today’s Guest Preacher | The Rev. Gloria Winston is the executive director of the Wesley Campus Ministry at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). She has over thirty years of professional experience providing pastoral care, grief and trauma-informed ministry, spiritual formation, and mentoring to individuals and special needs groups. A graduate of Duke Divinity School, Rev. Winston is an ordained elder in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC). As a minister, she has served as a college chaplain, hospital chaplain, mentor for ministry candidates, and lead pastor of several local churches. She currently serves as the spiritual formation director for Faith Matters Network and is also on the national board of the Association of Chaplaincy in Spiritual Life and Higher Education. She previously worked as the director of NCCU’s Office of Spiritual Development and Dialogue. She is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Transformative Leadership with a concentration in Peace Building and Interfaith Dialogue at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Cover Art | “On the bent back of the humiliated disciple are two golden claw prints of the cock. Three hands cover Peter’s profile, yet this does not seem odd or disturbing. They represent the three denials. All about his shoulders and bowed head gold leaf glows, blending into the blue and black of the dark night of the soul. Even in the moment of Peter’s extreme mortification, God is there waiting to redeem the moment.” From Frank Wesley: Exploring Faith with a Brush (Naomi Wray, Pace Publishing, 1993), a biography of Indian-Australian artist Frank Wesley, who was born in 1923 into a fifth-generation Christian family of Hindu and Muslim descent.
Restrooms in Divinity School | Public restrooms are available in the Divinity School. To access them, exit the Chapel through the main front doors and enter the Divinity School. Restrooms are along the hallway in the Divinity School.

Holy Week and Easter | The Chapel will observe the remainder of Holy Week and Easter with the worship services and concerts below. To learn more, visit chapel.duke.edu/HolyWeek.

- Friday, April 7, at 1:00 p.m.—Meditative Organ Music
- Friday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m.—Good Friday Tenebrae Service
- Saturday, April 8, at 4:00 p.m. in Goodson Chapel—Vespers Ensemble Holy Saturday Concert
- Sunday, April 9, at 6:30 a.m. in Duke Gardens—Easter Sunrise Service
- Sunday, April 9, at 9:00 a.m.—Easter Day Service with Holy Communion
- Sunday, April 9, at 11:00 a.m.—Easter Day Service
- Sunday, April 9, at 4:00 p.m.—Choral Evensong

Stations of the Cross | During Holy Week, the Chapel will display the paintings of the Stations of the Cross by Margaret Adams Parker. The series of fourteen panels depicts Christ’s journey to the cross with contemporary figures rendered in muted browns. Parker focuses in these paintings on Christ’s strength in the face of suffering and the intimacy of his encounters with others on his Via Dolorosa (“Way of Suffering”).

Vespers Ensemble Holy Saturday Concert | On Holy Saturday, the Duke Chapel Vespers Ensemble will present a concert of seven hundred years of musical settings of the medieval poem “Stabat mater dolorosa,” which portrays Mary lamenting the crucifixion of her son Jesus. The concert, free and open to the public, is on Saturday, April 8, at 4:00 p.m. in Goodson Chapel in Duke Divinity School. The Chapel’s conductor-in-residence Dr. Philip Cave will direct the performance of soloists and chorus, accompanied by lute, viola da gamba, viola, cello, and organ. The composers featured include Josquin Desprez (1455–1521), Claudio Casciolini (1697–1760), and Zoltan Kodaly (1882–1967).
**Young Adult Gathering** | University graduate students, other young adults, and their partners are invited to dinner and Bible study on Monday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel kitchen, located in the lower level of the Chapel. Come for a light supper and good conversation. Participants will discuss the Letter to the Romans. Please contact Laura Wilson at laura.wilson@duke.edu for additional information.

**Saturday Service Project** | Volunteers are needed for gardening work at Urban Community AgriNomics (UCAN) on Saturday, April 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 12-noon. UCAN’s mission is to empower Durham families with access to resources for growing healthy food using sustainable practices in a supportive environment. The UCAN farm, established in 2016, is located approximately twenty minutes from Duke at 2080 Sawmill Creek Parkway. For more information, contact congregation@duke.edu.

**Back Pew Collection** | Urban Community AgriNomics’s Catawba Trail Farm welcomes donations of gardening supplies. Needed items include all sizes of garden and work gloves, small hand tools for gardening, and bird seed/food. Donations may be placed on the back pew on Sundays, April 23 and 30.

**Spring Oratorio: Music for Troubled Times** | On Sunday, April 23, at 4:00 p.m., the Chapel’s choirs join forces with the Mallarmé Chamber Players to present a program of choral music for anxious times. The program will include Felix Mendelssohn’s cantata “Hear My Prayer” and the Missa in Angustiis (“Lord Nelson” Mass) by Franz Joseph Haydn, considered one of the most evocative mass settings of the Classical era. Tickets ($30 general seating; $18 for employees; free for Duke students) are available through the Duke Box Office at tickets.duke.edu.

**Lasagnas Needed** | The Congregation serves dinner at Urban Ministries of Durham once a month, rotating between the second Sunday and fourth Wednesday. Donated lasagnas are needed for the monthly dinner to help feed our unsheltered neighbors. To volunteer to bring two party-sized Stouffer’s lasagnas to Urban Ministries, 410 Liberty St., Durham, on Wednesday, April 26, or a future date, please contact congregation@duke.edu.

**Sunday Morning Classes** | Sunday morning Christian Education classes are available for all ages on most Sundays of the year. There will be no classes on Easter morning, April 9. All classes will resume on April 16.
ACCESSIBILITY

Large-print worship guides are available at the visitor relations desk. Hearing assistance units are available at the AV console in the rear of the Chapel. Please let us know if you need other accommodations by approaching a minister or usher, or email us at dukechapel@duke.edu.

LET’S KEEP IN TOUCH

We would like to get to know you. What are your questions? What is your story? Take a moment to fill out a brief form, and a Chapel minister or other staff member will contact you soon. Scan the QR code or visit chapel.duke.edu/connect.

The Congregation at Duke Chapel

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The Congregation at Duke University Chapel joyfully welcomes all persons regardless of age, race, class, origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other distinction and invites membership and participation in all of its ministries.

Please email congregation@duke.edu to receive the weekly eNews.