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
For each station, the presiding minister will announce the station, the tableau will form, those gathered will respond with the text in bold, and then the minister will pray. When the trumpeter begins playing, please follow the procession to the next station. The procession will begin on the Chapel steps.

I. Jesus Is Condemned to Death
All in unison:

The crowd is demanding and clamoring.
They want him crucified.
No one can shout them down.
Pilate is giving his verdict.
“If that’s what you want,
Let him be crucified.”

adapted from Luke 23:23–24
Prayers

II. Jesus Bears His Cross
All in unison:

The soldiers dressed him in a grand robe.
They ridiculed him and laughed at him.
Then they stripped him again and put his own clothes on him.
Finally they led him out to crucify him.

adapted from Matthew 27:31
Prayers

III. Jesus Falls for the First Time
All in unison:

Jesus carried the cross by himself.
He carried it to the Place of the Skull.
The place is called Golgotha.

adapted from John 19:17
Prayers
IV. Jesus Meets His Mother on the Way
All in unison:

When Jesus came to Jerusalem the first time,
Simeon had told Mary
a sword would pierce her soul.
Now those words had come true.

adapted from Luke 2:34–35a

Prayers

V. Simon of Cyrene Helps Carry Jesus’ Cross
All in unison:

There was a man coming in from the country.
His name was Simon, and he came from Cyrene, in North Africa.
He was close by when Jesus was carrying his cross.
They ordered Simon to take up the cross instead of Jesus.

adapted from Mark 15:21

Prayers

VI. A Woman Wipes the Face of Jesus
All in unison:

In Galilee a woman once wiped Jesus’ feet with her hair.
Jesus said her many sins had been forgiven.
He said the one who has been forgiven much, loves much.
Now it is Jesus’s face that is unclean.
Once again a woman steps forward
to clean what no one else will touch.

adapted from Luke 7:44–47

Prayers

VII. Jesus Falls for the Second Time
All in unison:

Isaiah foretold,
“He has borne our disease;
yet we called him struck down by God.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
on him was laid the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.”

adapted from Isaiah 53:4–5

Prayers
VIII. Jesus Rebukes the Daughters of Jerusalem
All in unison:
A great number of the people were following him.
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.”

adapted from Luke 23:28–31

Prayers

IX. Jesus Falls for the Third Time
All in unison:
Isaiah foretold,
“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
he did not open his mouth.
For he was cut off from the land of the living,
Struck down for the transgression of my people.”

adapted from Isaiah 53:7–8

Prayers

X. Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments
All in unison:
The soldiers divided his clothes among them.
They cast lots to decide what each should take.

adapted from Mark 15:24

Prayers

XI. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross
All in unison:
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.

adapted from Luke 23:33

Prayers
XII. Jesus Dies on the Cross
All in unison:

It was now about noon,  
and darkness came over the whole land  
until three in the afternoon,  
while the sun’s light failed.  
And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.  
Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,  
“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”  
And he breathed his last.

adapted from Luke 23:44–46

Prayers

XIII. Jesus Is Given to Those Who Would Bury Him
All in unison:

When Pilate learned from the centurion that Jesus was dead,  
he granted the body to Joseph of Arimathaea.  
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.

adapted from Mark 15:45–46

Prayers

XIV. Jesus Is Laid in the Tomb
All in unison:

Joseph of Arimathaea came and removed his body.  
Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came,  
bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes,  
weighing about a hundred pounds.  
They took the body of Jesus  
and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths.  
Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified,  
and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so they laid Jesus there.

adapted from 19:38–42

Prayers
All in unison:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

The service continues inside Duke Chapel. The congregation is asked to remain silent during the opening voluntary as a time of prayer and meditation.

Gathering

Opening Voluntary

O Welt ich muss dich lassen (two settings) Johannes Brahms
(O World, I Must Leave Thee) (1833–1897)

Greeting

*Opening Hymn 298

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Proclamation

Prayer of Illumination | In unison:

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family, for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into hostile hands and to suffer death for our salvation; and 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.

Old Testament Lesson | OT page 473–474 in the pew Bible.

Psalm 22

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

*All rise as able
Gospel Lesson | NT page 50–51 in the pew Bible

Mark 15:22–39

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

Sermon

The Distant and Present God

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:
“Hear our prayer.”

Anthem

Crux fidelis

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.

Benediction
All may depart in silence after the ministers recess.
TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Ministers for the 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

Presiding Minister for Noon Service
Luke A. Powery ................... Dean, Duke University Chapel

Preacher
Warren Kinghorn .................. Esther Colliflower Associate Research Professor of Pastoral and Moral Theology, Duke Divinity School; Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Duke University Medical Center

Lector
Katie Spencer .................. Chapel Scholar, Duke Wesley Fellowship, Pratt ’23

Stations of the Cross Tableau Actors
Elias Ballew .................. Divinity ’22
Jordan Braswell .................. Divinity ’23
Caroline Camp .................. Divinity ’23
Maria Morrison .................. Trinity ’22

Musicians
Vespers Ensemble .................. Choir
Philip Cave .................. Associate Conductor for Chapel Music, Duke University Chapel
Robert Parkins .................. University Organist, Duke University Chapel

Today’s Guest Preacher | Today’s Sterly and Pelham Wilder Guest Preacher is Dr. Warren Kinghorn, an associate professor of psychiatry at the Duke University Medical Center and the Esther Colliflower Professor of the Practice of Pastoral and Moral Theology at Duke Divinity School. He is also co-director of the Theology, Medicine, and Culture Initiative at the Divinity School and a staff psychiatrist at the Durham VA Medical Center. Dr. Kinghorn is a psychiatrist whose work centers on the role of religious communities in caring for persons with mental health problems and on ways in which Christians engage practices of modern health care. He has written on the moral and theological dimensions of combat trauma and moral injury, on the moral and political context of psychiatric diagnosis, and on the way that St. Thomas Aquinas’s image of the human as wayfarer might inform contemporary practices of ministry and mental health care.