

# A Good Friday Journey:

Through the Eyes of Those There



All liturgy/drama adapted from Marcia McFee, [www.worshipdesignstudio.com](http://www.worshipdesignstudio.com).  
Sending Forth from *Gifts of the Dark Wood* by Eric Elnes  
Adapted by Rev Katie Penick and Michael Jones.

**Gathering Music:** *Sonata Quasi una Fantasia* from "[Sonata No. 14](#)" (Op 27 No. 2, Movement 1) by Ludwig van Beethoven (1802), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard and Byron Stay. All rights reserved, used with permission.

## **Welcome!**

**Preparing Our Hearts for Worship (Song of Preparation):** [Christ lag in Todesbanden](#), arrangement by J.S. Bach. Tune from an ancient Latin melody, ©Public Domain. Lyrics by Martin Luther (1524), ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard and Byron Stay. All rights reserved, used with permission.

## **Narrator**

Rae Smith

The first person we encounter along our journey to the cross is Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus. Let us ponder what may have been going through Judas' mind to lead him to betray his Lord and friend.

## **First Lesson:**

Pastor Katie

Jesus was troubled in spirit that night, and he said, "I'm telling you: one of you is going to betray me." The disciples looked at each other, not sure who or what he was talking about. Peter leaned over to Jesus and said, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus turned to Judas, and gave him his own piece of bread. "Go quickly," Jesus said to him. "Do what you are going to do." (John13:21-30)

## **Judas (disciple of Jesus)**

Rich Owens

## **Music Interlude:**

When I Survey the Wonderous Cross (verses 1-2)

## **Narrator**

Rae Smith

Next, we encounter the Roman Centurion, the commander of the century or tactical military unit that would have been tasked with Christ's crucifixion. We now consider how the crucifixion may have affected this Centurion or one of the centuries he commanded:

## **Second Lesson:**

Carroll Sager

After dinner, they went to the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus prayed. And then the soldiers came, and they arrested Jesus. They took him to the Council, and to the Governor's palace, where they tried to make it look like a trial--but it wasn't. And then finally, they led him away, to the place where criminals were hung, always, on crosses. So that they would die—slowly, painfully. Jesus was hung between two other crosses, bandits on each side of him. And the sign over Jesus' cross said, "This was the King of the Jews." [a narrative of the sacred scriptures]

## **Roman Soldier**

Burnie Clutz

## **Music Interlude:**

When I Survey the Wonderous Cross (verse 3)

**Narrator**

Rae Smith

Mary, mother of Jesus is next on our journey as we imagine the overwhelming grief and sorrow that she must have felt as the crucifixion scene unfolded before her very eyes. Helplessly watching her very son humiliated, beaten, pierced, mocked, and nailed upon a tree to die. Her flesh and blood, her baby, and she was unable to intervene to help him, to save him, as he was in the midst of it all, unknowingly to her, saving her and the entire world...

**Third Lesson:**

Amber Nilson

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother and some other women he had known well. When he saw his mother, and the disciple John there in front of him, Jesus said, "Take this son in my place...Take good care of my mother." [a narrative of the sacred scriptures]

**Mary, Mother of Jesus**

Barb Hendershot

**Music Interlude:**

When I Survey the Wonderous Cross (verse 4)

**Narrator**

Rae Smith

Finally, we come across Salome, a follower and friend of Jesus, as she tries to make sense of his death by comforting the other women and planning to help them anoint his body for burial. The Hebrew tradition of anointing honorees with a sweet-smelling oil made of a combination of many herbs was used at the consecration of kings and also as anointing for burial. Early Christians incorporated use of this same sweet-smelling oil as part of their baptismal and confirmation rites to emphasize their new identity with Christ (which also means "anointed one").

**Fourth Lesson:**

Felicity Shafer

Mark's gospel mentions our last character at the scene of the cross, "Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome." Salome later accompanies the women to the tomb. [a narrative of the sacred scriptures]

**Salome, Friend of Jesus**

Darlene Covington

**Hymn:** *"Were You There," Arrangement by Claire Marie Moblard, all rights reserved. Tune and lyrics from an African-American spiritual, ©Public Domain. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard and Byron Stay. All rights reserved, used with permission.*

**We Reflect**

Pastor Katie

**Our Savior's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name,  
Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:  
For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Sending Forth**

You have a place in this world; a place where everything comes together in your body and you disappear into a seamless whole. Get over [whatever shortcomings afflict you] and inhabit this world with your fullest self. May the Spirit of the Living God, made known to us most fully within the wilderness of life:

**Go before you to show you the way;**

Go above you to watch over you;

**Go behind you to push you into places you may not necessarily go yourself;**

Go beneath you to uphold and uplift you;

**Go beside you to be your strong and constant companion;**

And dwell within you to remind you that you are surely not alone, and that you are loved—loved beyond your wildest imagination. And may the fire of God's blessing burn brightly upon you, and within you, now and always. Amen.



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