

(The Communion table is set to the side of the chancel with 4 purple strips of cloth draped over the top of the table and hanging down the front. On the first three cloths stand a purple candle, and on the last cloth stands the Christ candle. The Christ candle is lit before the service, but the others are not. The cross stands to the far side of the communion table with a black cloth draped over it)

Gathering Song: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Voices United 149)

Welcome: *(read by Vanessa)* The light of Christ is shining within us as we worship on unceded Mi'kmak'i land. In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.
All are welcome by God's grace.

Call to Worship: (led by Vanessa)

One: Come: Let us follow the road to the cross

All: The road of sorrow and death

One: Let us search for our place in the story

All: For we too have given and felt betrayal

One: Let us look into the shadows of our souls

All: There we will find the Christ

Opening Prayer: *(led by Vanessa)* Let us pray together:

Come to us, Lord, and breathe your spirit into our Good Friday experience. Today, as we listen to the story of the cross, may we find the meaning of this Passion story. Our hearts are filled with conflicting thoughts of wonder and confusion, love and grief, hope and sadness. Teach us that even in the depths of our disappointments and heartaches, you are there. May we too feel, as did those disciples of long ago, the power of your love, O God.

Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Hymn: Were You There (Voices United # 144)

Prayer of Confession: *(led by Vanessa)* As we listen to the stories of the cross, in music and in word, we are moved to penitence. Please join me in a prayer of confession:

O merciful God, as we hear once more the passion story we are moved beyond measure. We come bearing the marks of a bitter and broken world. We have grown callous to the pains and sorrows of this world. We have turned our backs on those in need. We have sought comfort and pleasure, rather than service. As we stand in the shadow of the cross we admit our fears and failures. Forgive us O God. Stir our hearts and inflame our souls that we may reach out to the lost and lonely of our world with your love. We pray in the name of our crucified redeemer, Jesus, Amen.

Words of Assurance: *(read by Vanessa)*

God's love is stronger than our weakness. When we confess with an open heart, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Cantata - Canticle of the Cross:

Introduction: *(read by John)*

The Canticle of the Cross cantata is a service of song based on Celtic folksongs and Celtic-styled original songs composed and arranged, with words written by Joseph M. Martin; further orchestrated to include woodwind quintet accompaniment by our Music Director John Lindsay-Botten; and presented to you by Knox Choir along

with our guest musicians. Thank you to flautist Moira Findlay, bassoonist Danielle Findlay, Danielle Chute on clarinet, oboist Nina Woulff, Randall Ulmer playing the horn, and Brenda Joyce at the piano.

The songs and narration follow the path of the cross from Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem, on Palm Sunday, to the crucifixion. The cantata will end on a somber note. The choir will recess, and you are welcome to stay and ponder the story as long as you wish, then leave in silence when you are ready. Breathe deeply. Gaze upon the rugged cross and take a moment to enter into the story (moment of silence).

Forward: *(read by John)*

1.Prelude

2.Song of the Cross *(during the song the three candles are lit)*

Narration

3.A Celtic Hosanna *(during the song palm fronds are placed on the first purple cloth. At the end of the song that candle is extinguished)*

Narration

4.Come to the Upper Room *(during the song a chalice and loaf of bread are placed on the second purple cloth. At the end of the song that candle is extinguished)*

Narration

5.The Garden of Tears *(during the song red rose petals are scatter on the third purple cloth. At the end of the song that candle is extinguished)*

Narration

6.The Carpenter *(during the song large spikes and a rustic hammer are placed on the fourth purple cloth. At the end of the song the Christ candle is extinguished)*

Narration

7.A Tree Once Stood

Narration

8.Consolation of the Cross

Commissioning *(read responsively, **Thelma** waiting a beat before continuing.)*

The Cross judges us

Can the evil and the powerful ones gain such a hold that the good will be sacrificed?

The Cross calls us to compassion

Can we stand idly by while God's cherished ones are suffering so intensely?

The cross questions our loyalty

The disciples are hiding when Jesus is dying.

Where are we when the cost of friendship is high?

The cross signs God's lasting Love,

And we remain eternally in its shadow.

9. Epilogue (*Thelma picks up the extinguished Christ candle. Six members of the choir remove the black cloth. Three other choir members take the purple candles. The narrator choir exit via the ramp on the lectern side of the chancel and then up the center aisle. The Christ candle goes first, followed by the black cloth carried by six people – like a casket, then the remaining candles and finally the remainder of the choir. Music continues to play until the entire procession is out of the sanctuary*)

<For the screens, once the music is done, switch to:

*“Our service is over.
Please pause
and continue praying
for as long as you wish.”*

(White/light-grey letters on black) >