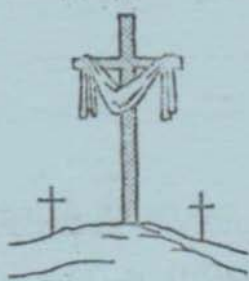


UNION GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
April 16, 1976, 7-8:30 AM



TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Clarinda, Iowa

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 16, 1976

7:00 - 8:30am

UNION GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

SHADOWS AROUND THE CROSS

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

*HYMN: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" No. 378

THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 22:54-62

MEDITATION: Rev. Wayne Fisher

PRAYER

ORGAN INTERLUDE

THE SHADOW OF REJECTION

HYMN: "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed" No. 199

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 15:6-14

MEDITATION: Rev. Ted Conway

PRAYER

ORGAN INTERLUDE

THE SHADOW OF INJUSTICE

HYMN: "O Sacred Head Now Wounded" No. 194

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 27:24-26

MEDITATION: Rev. John Clark

PRAYER

ORGAN INTERLUDE

7:00-
7:18

7:18-
7:34

7:36-
7:54

THE SHADOW OF TORTURE

7:54
8:12
HYMN: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" No. 198

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 15:16-20

MEDITATION: Rev. Jerold Irvin

PRAYER

ORGAN INTERLUDE

THE SHADOW OF MOCKERY

8:12
8:30
HYMN: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" No. 190

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 27:39-50

MEDITATION: Rev. Robert Nelson

PRAYER

*HYMN: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" No. 195

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

You may leave an offering as you leave. Receptacles have been placed near the doors.

In addition to this Union Good Friday service, sponsored by the Clarinda Ministerial Alliance, we invite you to participate in the annual Union Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am at the Christian Church.

And we urge you, for your spiritual enrichment, to take part in other Easter season services of your own church.

THE SHADOW OF DEATH

Matth 27:45-51

We appreciate the service of Helen Hoskinson
and Ruth Garrett who have served as organists for
this service.

Another of the shadows of the cross is the shadow of torture. But torture is hardly a shadow, it is stark hurt, abject humiliation, and pain, that tho endured for a right cause, is nevertheless pain. I am sure that most of us have never endured the pain and torture which our Lord endured during these last moments of his life. We are, however, acquainted with pain. We know what it is to submit to the surgeon's knife, to put up with a headache, to have a sprain, or a broken limb. So we can in some ways empathize with the pain our Lord endured as he was tortured.

The brief account which we noted from the Gospel of Mark indicates that Jesus was hit on the head with a stick (TEV). Presumably he was struck more than once, and in the process some of the blows undoubtedly fell elsewhere - perhaps across his face.

What cruelty for an innocent man.

whipping of Jesus

Then these same Markan verses also indicate that they fashioned a crown of thorns and thrust it onto his head. We can, if we have any feeling whatever, imagine how the thorns must have bitten into the scalp and torn the flesh. Indeed, most artists depict the crown of thorns causing blood

to trickle down his face. (2)

What cruelty for an innocent man.

Still another part of the torture inflicted on our Lord was that he was forced to carry his own cross according to John 19:17 to the place of his execution. The cross undoubtedly was a heavy rough piece of lumber, and Jesus was already weakened from the beating and other indignities inflicted upon him.

Perhaps you remember the scenes in the movie BEN HUR of Jesus carrying the cross thru the narrow crowded streets, how they lashed him when he collapsed under the weight of the timber. I would guess that to be a reasonable reproduction of the torture which Jesus bore as he carried his cross.

What cruelty to inflict on an innocent man.

Still another type of torture was inflicted on our Lord when they nailed him to the cross - nails driven thru the hands, and apparently thru the feet as well. We shall never experience such pain. But then, after they had nailed him to the cross, they tilted it up with the bottom end braced on the side of the hole. Higher and higher it was lifted, until at last it was straight enough so that it fell with a thud into

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into the hole - tearing and ripping the flesh of the one who was hanging upon it.

What cruelty for an innocent man.

But his crucifiers still were not satisfied, even as he hung there writhing in pain. According to John 19:34 they drove a spear thru his side as he hung there. Perhaps the long association with cruelty made the soldiers immune to feelings and pain.

What cruelty for an innocent man.

So we have at least 5 instances of the torturing of Jesus Christ - they beat him, they pressed a crown of thorns upon him, they forced him to carry his cross, they drove nails thru his flesh, and they pierced his body with a spear.

WHY . . .well that is an age old question.

And theories abound about Jesus' willingness to endure the torturing. Some say that it was for our sake, some say that sin cannot be remitted without shed blood, others say that it was foreordained by God, others say other things.

I don't dispute any of the theories....but there really is only one reason why Jesus put up with the torture. And that is because of his commitment to God, the placing of his life in the

hands of God as a freely selected choice. Jesus⁴
was no puppet. Just a brief time before he had
recommitted himself to God and the way God was
dealing with evil men.. You remember, there in
the garden of Gethsemane. . when his agony was so
great that his sweat was as blood . . Jesus asked
God ~~to spare him~~ if there wasn't some other way
"Take this cup from me" But God was dealing
with evil man, and the power of evil was great.
So God informed Jesus that there was no easy way
out for God, evil was slaying the Son of God. So
Jesus said "nevertheless not my will, but yours
be done.

And that style of commitment hangs heavy over
his disciples today. Can we follow God's will to
the end. Don't we start interpreting his will
when things get tough. Ah yes we do don't
we?

Simon of Cyrene