**Good Friday Ecumenical Worship Service**

**Choral Anthem – Behold him in Dark Gethsemane**

**First reading | Luke 23:20-27**

**First story: Simon of Cyrene**

**Choral Anthem – And No Bird Sang**

**Confession**

Alvis:

When we follow in the steps of Jesus, we say yes to bearing his cross—

not because there is any kind of value in suffering,

not to prove our selflessness, nor because God wills it,

but because living as Jesus lived

makes the cross inevitable.

So together, let us pray:

**Jesus, when we side with you,**

**we side with all who threaten the status quo.**

When we refuse the call

to see others’ struggles as our own,

we abandon our kin to shoulder their crosses alone.

So we pray, O God,

**embolden us to accept the risks that come with following you—**

**even as we resist the powers and systems**

**that set crosses on our shoulders.**

**Amen.**

**Special Music – When I Survey this Wondrous Cross (Piano, Flute, Bell)**

**Second reading | Luke 23:39-43**

**Second story: The criminal on the cross**

**Sung Meditation**

“Jesus, Remember Me” UMH 488

**Preparing for the last reading**

**final reading | Luke 23:44-46, 48**

48 All the crowds who had come together to see this event returned to their homes beating their chests after seeing what had happened.

**HYMN** Within Our Darkest Night

**Blessing and sending**