

# *Good Friday Cantata*

*First United Methodist Church of Pine Mountain*

Welcome	Rev. Martha Dye
Opening Voluntary	Mr. John Manseau
Lighting of the Candles	
Choral Call to Worship	Chancel Choir

## ***O Lord, Hear My Prayer***

*Congregational Prayer	UMH 284
*Congregational Hymn	UMH 285

*To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord*

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

A Cantata for Holy Week by Lani Smith

### ***Were You There?***

#### ***Stripping of the Altar***

*In the morning the Council made their plans. They bound Jesus and led him away and handed him over to Pilate. And Pilate, wishing to please the crowd, released Barrabas instead of Jesus. Then after having Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be crucified. Jesus went out, carrying his own cross, to a place outside the city – the place of the skull, Golgotha.*

#### ***Sing, My Tongue the Glorious Battle***

*The crowd followed Jesus as he struggled step by step under the heavy cross. Exhausted from the soldiers' torture and beatings, he could walk no further and collapsed under the weight of the cross, falling to the ground. And the people, seeing his pain and suffering, gasped in despair. Jesus looked up at them. Then his eyes fell upon those of his mother as she watched in disbelief and horror.*

#### ***Jesus, I Will Ponder Now***

*After Jesus had fallen for the first time, the soldiers seized a man from the crowd, Simon of Cyrene, and laid the cross on his shoulders for him to carry it behind Jesus. "If anyone would come after me," said Jesus to his disciples, "Let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after*

*me cannot be a disciple." And a woman in the crowd, moved with much compassion and risking the anger of the soldiers, reached out and wiped the blood and sweat from the face of Jesus*

### ***Beneath the Cross of Jesus***

*Once again Jesus fell to the hard ground. And when he looked up, he saw many women from Jerusalem, crying and lamenting over his pain and suffering. Jesus slowly raised himself up and turned to them and said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me. Weep for yourselves and for your children."*

### ***Go to Dark Gethsemane***

*When they had arrived at Golgotha, the place of crucifixion, the soldiers offered Jesus wine mingled with gall to drink, but he would not drink it. Then they cast lots and divided his garments among themselves. The soldiers whipped him and spat upon his face.*

### ***Ah, Holy Jesus***

*The soldiers nailed Jesus to the cross and crucified him at the place which is called The Skull. With him they crucified two thieves, one on the right and one on the left. And the soldiers offered Jesus vinegar to drink. "It is finished," he said. Then, lifting his eyes to heaven, he cried out, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Then Jesus bowed his head and died. It was the ninth hour and the darkness covered the whole land.*

### ***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***

*The crowd stood at a distance and watched Jesus die. Then they returned home filled with grief and sorrow. The women who had followed Jesus, along with Mary and the beloved disciple, received the body of Jesus. And a man named Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it, wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb. Then they rolled a large stone over the opening.*

### ***Were You There (Reprise)***

### ***Behold the Lamb of God***

### ***Reading of Isaiah 53***

*Please leave the Sanctuary in silence.*

*We will meet here again on the morning of the third day.*

*Special thanks to Mim Clepper for creating the presentation of artwork by James J. Tissot (French painter and illustrator, 1836-1902) that accompanied the cantata.*