



Return to Me

Composer's Note

It is a difficult task to capture the feelings and emotions of Good Friday, but Terry's incredibly beautiful texts—which are sometimes almost difficult to speak—paint such vivid pictures. My hope is that the music does not find itself in the way of these images, but instead subtly enhances them. Whether that is done through discovering the nearly-defensive tone of “Caesar Is Our King,” or the handing off of melody between the choir and cello in “Only God Knows,” or the cold and lonely lullaby in “No Crying He Makes,” the idea was to simply find the essence of the text and offer it a musical comparison. The conductor, the choir, and the cellist should keep the text in mind through the whole work.

—*Taylor Scott Davis*

Author's Note

To encounter the Stations of the Cross via the visual and performing arts is to walk with Jesus from Pilate's house to Calvary, and then to watch as Jesus' body is placed in the tomb. Tradition holds that, during Holy Week in the ancient Church, pilgrims made their way to Jerusalem to walk the path he walked during the last days and events of his suffering. The Stations of the Cross invite the worshiper into a drama that is not a time of pretending, but a time of entering into the story.

This work is intended to create a conversation between ancient scripture texts and current hard speech. Each anthem in this choral cycle, with the exception of the Maundy Thursday anthem, “Salvation Stands with Open Arms,” is a dialogue with the specific biblical passage from which it emerged. The anthem texts are simple as pain is simple, as hope is simple. Yet, a careful reading, singing, and hearing of each anthem will reveal words or phrases that expose complexities in processing pain and hope, and in living as Christ-followers in our complex and confusing time. Read, sing, hear, and think deeply and prayerfully.

—*Terry W. York*

The Worship of God

Good Friday

March 29, 2024

7:00 P.M.

*Worship begins with the Solemn Processional.
Please use this as a time of quiet reflection and prayer.*

Solemn Prelude

Patricio Gutierrez, cello

Sarabande from Cello Suite No. 5 in C Minor — J. S. Bach

Gathering Words

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

The Confession of Sin

Let us confess that we have lost our shock at the death of God. We have failed to acknowledge the price of divine, perfect love.

Silence is kept.

Promise of Forgiveness

We have not used the safety of words for our confession,
simply the silence that lays bare all.

God must hear it all:

only then can we recognize the depth of grace we are given. Amen.

Communion

All Believers

Invitation to the Table & Words of Institution

Rev. Laurie Anderson

Unison Prayer

Let us pray:

God of the covenant, as we celebrate the beginning of the paschal feast, we come to the table of the Lord in whom we have salvation, life, and resurrection. Renew the power of this mystery in our service to one another and to you, so that with Christ we may pass from this life to the glory of your kingdom. Amen.

The Receiving of Communion

(Following the choir, please move forward, by way of the center aisle to partake of communion and return via the outside aisles.)

Prayer After Receiving

Rev. Laurie Anderson

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Return to Me

Salvation Stands with Open Arms

*Salvation stands with open arms,
With nailprints red and flowing.
Salvation stands upon a nail
With love and pain, both glowing.*

Salvation's flesh is torn and broken,
By thorns and nails and spear is broken,
By greed and hate and war is broken.

For love and pity,
for grace and mercy,
Salvation's flesh is torn and broken.

Now when you eat, Now when you drink,
When you see greed and hate and war,
Remember me.

Hail, King of the Jews

John 19:1-3

Rev. Virzola Law

Rejection pierces his heart;
Thorns pierce his brow.
Betrayal slaps his soul;
Soldiers slap his face.
Laughter saddens his spirit
As those he deeply loves mock his name.
 Hail, king of the Jews.
 Condemnation is the purple robe he wears.
The Innocent stands condemned;
Hate stands to cheers.
Betrayal slaps his soul;
Hatred slaps Love's face.
Cursing covers their fear;
Self-righteousness and pride mock his name.
 Hail, king of the Jews.
 Condemnation is the purple robe he wears.
A crown of thorns, fearful lies,
Tears and love flow from his eyes.
The Lord of Life condemned to die;
Crucify! Crucify!

Caesar Is Our King

John 19:15-17

Rev. Laurie Anderson

Crucify him!
Shall I crucify your king?

*Away with this man,
For Caesar is our king.
Away with this man,
Whom it pleases us to hate.*

Away with this man,
For Caesar is our king.
Away with this man,
For his teachings make no sense.
Away with him; Caesar is our king.

Away with this man,
For his claims amount to treason:
Away with this man, can there be more damning reason?
Away with him; Caesar is our king.

So Pilate delivered him,
And Jesus bore His cross to the Place of the Skull.

Daughters of Jerusalem, Weep

Luke 23:27-28

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

Daughters of Jerusalem, weep.
Weep not for me,
But for yourselves and your children;
Daughters of Jerusalem, weep.
Weep for yourselves,
For the sources of your tears.
Weep for your children,
For their fate in coming years.

Weep for yourselves,
Your destruction and disgrace.
Weep for your children,
From their fate you'll turn your face.

Sing your lament; sing your sorrow and oppression.
Sing your lament; sing abuse and its frustration.
Daughters of Jerusalem, weep. I know your tears.
Daughters of Jerusalem, weep.

What Was That He Said

Luke 23:32-38

Rev. Virzola Law

*Strip him of his clothes,
Soon he will be dead.
What was that, what was that,
What was that he said?*

Nailed upon the cross,
He dies with the thieves.
Roll the dice, roll the dice
For the clothes he leaves.

Shame upon shame,
The people stare.
Name upon name,
The people sneer.
Are you now a savior?
What is that you say?
Can he save himself
If he's dressed that way?

“Father, forgive them,
They know not what they do.”

Only God Knows

Isaiah 53:10-12

Rev. Laurie Anderson

Only God knows
The pain of nails in hands and feet.
The pain of bending neck and knees.
The pain of nails that will not cease.
God the Parent, God the Child.

Only God knows
This pain that's running wild.
The pain beyond the cries.
The pain through which I hear and see.
God the Parent, God the Child.

Only God knows
The pain of arms outstretched.
The pain in every breath.
This pain that's sacrament and prayer.
God the Parent, God the Child.

This Mid-Day Night

The Savior's grief, a healing sorrow;
His night a womb for our tomorrow.
His tears, his water, and his blood;
This mid-day night, a womb for our tomorrow.

The Savior's death, the Parent's loss, the Spirit's leaving.
How long this darkness, death, and grieving?
The temple veil rips as for birth.
He speaks his last in shouted, labored breathing.

The Savior's pain, a human shouting;
The Savior's death, the Spirit parting.
He cries our tears, he bleeds our blood;
This mid-day night, the life in death concealing.

The Savior dies, a stillness creeping;
A quiet darkness, save for weeping.
No jeers, no insults, no more taunts;
This mid-day night, no hope for dawn revealing.

No Crying He Makes

Again, God's Son sleeps.
Again, no crying he makes.
Again, his body is wrapped against the cold.

Where are the shepherds?
Where are the kings?
Joseph, where are you?

Angels guard the door, but not one angel sings.
Where is the hay for this cold room?
Every manger knows a tomb,
My Jesus, every manger knows a tomb.

God does not slumber,
But God's Son sleeps
Death's cold dark sleep.

God's Son sleeps.
No crying he makes.
His body is wrapped against the cold.

Solemn Recessional

(Please follow the choir and clergy as we recess to the front lawn to darken the cross.)



ROYAL LANE

BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers, Senior Pastor
Rev. Harry Wooten, Minister of Music & Worship
Beth Johnson, Minister to Children,
Youth & Families
Barbara Merry, Ministries Assistant
David Weigle, Organist

Rev. Laurie Anderson, Senior Pastor,
Midway Hills Christian Church
Rev. Virzola Law, Senior Pastor,
Northway Christian Church
Patricio Gutierrez, Cellist