

## WELCOME

Life is full of uncertainties. While we don't have all the answers, we believe God calls us to wonder.

We navigate the joys and surprises of life and faith together firm in the knowledge that God walks with us.

Come wonder with us! We've saved you a seat.

## WONDER HOUR, GROUPS & EVENTS

- \* **Good Friday Worship**—TONIGHT at 7 pm
- \* **Easter Sunday Worship**—6:45, 8:45 & 11:15 am
- \* **Egg Hunt & Fellowship**—Easter Sunday, 10 am
- \* **Food & Fellowship on the First**—Sunday, April 7
- \* **Dreams & Visions Concert**—Friday, April 12, 8 pm
- \* **Hands-On Service Hour**—Sunday, April 14, 10 am
- \* **Register/Volunteer for VBS**—June 10-14, 9 am-Noon



[fpcaustin.org/calendar](https://fpcaustin.org/calendar)



**FREE TO WONDER**

**First Presbyterian | AUSTIN**



**A FAITH JOURNEY:  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS  
BASED ON PETER'S LIFE**

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**Friday, March 29, 2024**

**Good Friday**

**Stations of the Cross Guidebook**



*“Prone to wander, Lord, we feel it,  
prone to leave the God we love.”*

Friends, we are more like Peter than we may like to admit. Our Lord has died and we were not there. And so, today we grieve with Peter. Our wandering hearts are heavy.

But as you leave this place, remember: your wandering heart is always tethered to the love of God. God’s abundant grace existed for Peter and it exists for you.

God’s love will never run out.

So go now in peace, trusting that streams of mercy shall find us all. Amen.

## **Stations of the Cross Based on Peter’s Life**

This interactive liturgy invites you to walk “the way of sorrows” to the cross through the eyes and experiences of one of Jesus’ closest disciples. As a nod to the Stations of the Cross, this journey highlights Peter’s role in the crucifixion narrative. In this way, we follow Jesus to his death with Peter as our companion. By focusing on Peter, we imagine how we might have acted and behaved had we been there as one of Jesus’ followers.

There are 6 prayer stations for you to journey through at your own pace. We invite you to read the scripture, look closely at the art, and reflect upon the artist’s words. We have also provided ways for you to tangibly and prayerfully respond to the scripture. Please take your time as you move from station to station. Let us walk “the way of sorrows,” following Jesus to the cross as if we are walking in Peter’s shoes.

## Station 1:

PETER RESISTS THEN RECEIVES THE FOOT WASHING



**READ:** John 13:1-20

**LOOK:** Look closely at the artwork: *Golden Hour* by Nicolette Peñaranda. As you gaze upon the art, what do you see? How do you feel?

**REFLECT:** Read the corresponding artist's statement. What new meaning do you glean from the artist's perspective?

**RESPOND:** Today, you have an opportunity to wash the feet of another to show complete humility. Move to an available foot washing station and follow the commandment of Jesus. Towels for drying are available.

After you have completed the foot washing station, move to the Narthex to complete Station 1.

Once in the Narthex, take an index card and write the names of people and/or communities you feel called to serve. When you are finished, hold onto your index card, as you will use it at a later station.

*Move to Station 2 located in the Courtyard at the foot of the stairs.*

## Station 6:

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED



**READ:** John 19:1-30

**LOOK:** Look closely at the artwork: *Were You There?* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. As you gaze upon the art, what do you see? How do you feel?

**REFLECT:** Read the corresponding artist's statement. What new meaning do you glean from the artist's perspective?

**RESPOND:** As you come to the foot of the cross, take a rock, nail, or candle and offer a silent prayer to God. The rock represents Peter as a "rock," and the nails remind us of what held Jesus on the cross. When you are finished, lay your rock, nail, or candle at the bottom of the cross.

This same cross will be adorned with flowers on Easter Sunday to remind us that Christ is continuing to add beauty in the midst of sin, suffering, and our own shortcomings.

*Go forth writing your own story with the help of a God that cares deeply for you.*

## Station 5:

### PETER DENIES CHRIST AGAIN AND AGAIN



**READ:** John 18:19-27

**LOOK:** Look closely at the artwork: *The Descent* by T. Denise Anderson. As you gaze upon the art, what do you see? How do you feel?

**REFLECT:** Read the corresponding artist's statement. What new meaning do you glean from the artist's perspective?

**RESPOND:** Take your two index cards from Stations 1 & 2 and place them in the fire. Watch them dissipate into the fire. In this act, we symbolically participate in Peter's denial and imagine that we too are standing by the charcoal fire where Peter warmed himself. We recognize the times we have turned away from those we love and from those whom God has called us to serve. We feel the pain of facing the worst part of ourselves.

*Move to Station 6 located under the Porte-cochère (covered drive).*

## Station 2:

### JESUS FORETELLS PETER'S DENIALS



**READ:** John 13:31-38

**LOOK:** Look closely at the artwork: *Really?* by Hannah Garrity. As you gaze upon the art, what do you see? How do you feel?

**REFLECT:** Read the corresponding artist's statement. What new meaning do you glean from the artist's perspective?

**RESPOND:** Consider Jesus' charge: "Just as I have loved you, you should also love one another."

Take an index card and write the names of people you profoundly love. When you are finished, hold onto your paper slip, as you will use it at a later station.

*Move to Station 3 located at the Labyrinth.*

### Station 3:

PETER DRAWS HIS SWORD



READ: John 18:1-11

LOOK: Look closely at the artwork: *Disarming Peter* by Lauren Wright Pittman. As you gaze upon the art, what do you see? How do you feel?

REFLECT: Read the corresponding artist's statement. What new meaning do you glean from the artist's perspective?

RESPOND: Pray the following prayer:

**Holy One, we are convicted of our addiction to violence. We lament the proliferation and use of firearms. Yet, we confess our own complicity in the pain of our neighbors. Whether we have picked up a gun, uttered harmful words about each other, or simply refused to acknowledge another's pain, we have betrayed the peace you left with us. We have built war economies that make conflict profitable. We have created societies that justify the violence of food and housing insecurity, racism, discrimination, and marginalization. God of grace, have mercy upon us, and save us from weak resignation to these evils. Amen.**

Now, while walking the labyrinth, reflect on your own contributions to the inequalities you just prayed about and possible solutions you can make in your daily life to be an agent for change and encouragement.

*Move to Station 4 located at the concrete picnic tables.*

### Station 4:

JESUS IS ARRESTED AND PETER DENIES CHRIST



READ: John 18:12-18

LOOK: Look closely at the artwork: *The Descent, Closeup* by T. Denise Anderson. As you gaze upon the art, what do you see? How do you feel?

REFLECT: Read the corresponding artist's statement. What new meaning do you glean from the artist's perspective?

RESPOND: When we think of violence, we think of calculated, deliberate, or impassioned action. In this station, we are confronted with the violence of inaction. Peter has now seen the lengths that power would go to silence Jesus. When asked if he was one of Jesus' disciples, Peter freezes. He must suspect that, if his association to Jesus were made known, he might be met with the same violence.

Pray the following prayer:

**Merciful God, we confess that, too often, we've been inactive bystanders in the face of someone else's victimization. Forgive us for choosing self-preservation over justice. Amen.**

On a strip of fabric, write about a time you failed to be the hands and feet of Christ. Tack your fabric to the cross.

*Move to Station 5 located at the limestone blocks near the playground.*