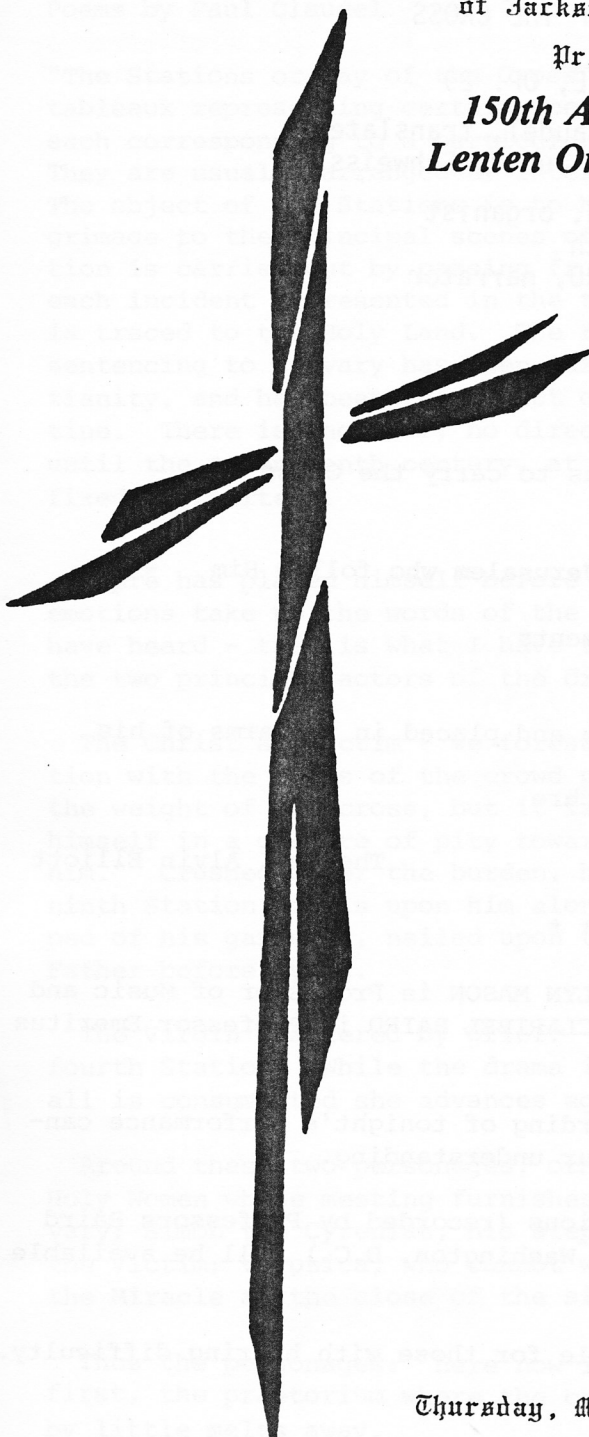


The First Baptist Church  
of Jackson, Michigan  
Presents

*150th Anniversary  
Lenten Organ Concert*



**The Stations  
Of The Cross**

by MARCEL DUPRÉ

**Marilyn Mason, Organist**  
University Organist  
The University of Michigan

**Claribel Baird, Narrator**  
Professor Emeritus of Theater  
The University of Michigan

Thursday, March 16, 1989

7:30 P.M.

INVOCATION

The Rev. Alvin Elliott

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

BY

MARCEL DUPRÉ, OP. 29

On Poems by Paul Claudel, translated  
By Gale Kramer and Judith Schweiss

MARILYN MASON, organist  
with

CLARIBEL BAIRD, narrator

- I. Jesus is condemned to Death
- II. Jesus receives His Cross
- III. Jesus falls the first Time
- IV. Jesus meets His Mother
- V. Simon the Cyrenian helps Jesus to carry the Cross
- VI. Jesus and Veronica
- VII. Jesus falls a second Time
- VIII. Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem who follow Him
- IX. Jesus falls the third Time
- X. Jesus is stripped of His Garments
- XI. Jesus is nailed to the Cross
- XII. Jesus dies upon the Cross
- XIII. Jesus is taken from the Cross and placed in the arms of his  
Mother
- XIV. Jesus is placed in the Sepulchre

BENEDICTION

The Rev. Alvin Elliott

\* \* \*

At the University of Michigan, MARILYN MASON is Professor of Music and  
Chairman of the Organ Department. CLARIBEL BAIRD is Professor Emeritus  
of Theatre.

We regret that taping or video recording of tonight's performance can-  
not be permitted. Thank you for your understanding.

Professional recordings of the Stations (recorded by Professors Baird  
and Mason in the National Shrine at Washington, D.C.) will be available  
following the performance.

Personal P.A. receivers are available for those with hearing difficulty.  
Please speak to an usher.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS, OP. 29  
LE CHEMIN DE LA CROIX

Poems by Paul Claudel

Music for Organ by Marcel Dupré

"The Stations or Way of the Cross" refer to a series of pictures or tableaux representing certain scenes in the Passion and Death of Christ, each corresponding to a particular incident connected with the Passion. They are usually arranged at intervals around the walls of a church... The object of the Stations is to help the faithful make in spirit a pilgrimage to the principal scenes of Christ's passion and death. The devotion is carried out by passing from Station to Station, meditating on each incident represented in the tableaux... The origin of this devotion is traced to the Holy Land. The route Christ traveled from the place of sentencing to Calvary has been marked since the earliest years of Christianity, and has been the object of pilgrimage since the days of Constantine. There is, however, no direct evidence of a set form of devotion until the seventeenth century, at which time the number of Stations was fixed at fourteen.

--*The Catholic Encyclopedia*, XV

Dupré has placed himself before the drama as a witness who could in his emotions take up the words of the apostle: "What I have seen, what I have heard - that is what I have to say to you." He has seen, and heard the two principal actors of the drama: Christ and the Virgin.

The Christ as Victim - we foresee it everywhere: from the first Station with the cries of the crowd pursuing him; we hear him stumble under the weight of the cross, but it is at the eighth Station that he reveals himself in a gesture of pity toward the "daughters of Israel who follow him." Crushed under the burden, he falls shortly afterwards at the ninth Station; it is upon him alone that our eyes are fixed, when stripped of his garments, nailed upon the cross, he speaks a last time to his Father before dying.

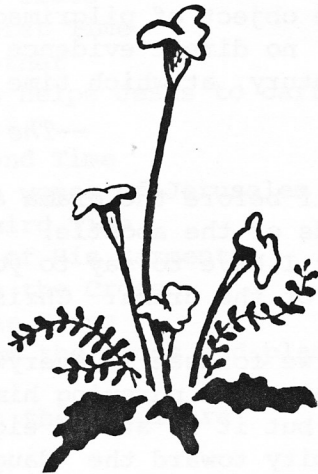
The Virgin shattered by grief: a striking figure which appears at the fourth Station. While the drama is taking place, she remains apart. When all is consummated she advances again to receive the body of her son.

Around these two personages, other secondary figures are sketched: the Holy Women whose meeting furnishes a temporary halt to the ascent to Calvary; Simon the Cyrenian, his steps adjusted little by little to those of the Victim; Veronica, who cannot withhold a gesture of pity, crowned by the Miracle at the close of the sixth Station.

Thus the personages: here now is the setting amid which they move - first, the praetorium where the crowd mills around, shouts, then little by little melts away.

Then begins the climb toward Calvary, translated from the second Station by an expressive rhythm: a solemn cortege which will become, at the fourteenth Station, a funeral march for the placing of the body in the tomb. Christ falls heavily, having arrived at the place of torture; his body is hoisted to the Cross by the ropes which grate; the blows of the hammer resound; the earth trembles, and finally, while the funeral procession leads us to the entrance of the tomb, by a magnificent lightening effect, the dawn of the Resurrection, felt little by little throughout the work, rises and illumines by its radiant tonality.

--Abbe R. Delestre, *L'Oeuvre de Marcel Dupré*,  
transl. Dr. E. L. Ford



The program is being made possible in part through the generous gifts of friends, the J. Ward Preston Memorial Fund, and the Philip T. Lincoln Memorial Fund.

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