

You are cordially invited to a reception
for Dr. Mason in the Multi-Purpose Room through the doors
to the right of the chancel following the concert.

The Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are a series of pictures or tableaux representing certain scenes in the Passion and Death of Christ. They are arranged at intervals around the walls of many churches. They depict the route Christ traveled from the place of sentencing to calvary which has been marked since the earliest years of Christianity, and has been the object of pilgrimage since the days of Constantine. When pilgrims returned to Europe from the Holy Land they built and painted the stations to show their friends what they had visited. Pope Pius IX established the tradition of 14 stations in 1741.

Paul Claudel (1868-1955)

Poet, dramatist, essayist, theologian, and diplomat, Paul Claudel served France as its official representative in embassies in Europe, the Orient, and North and South America. He was ambassador to Washington, D.C., from 1927 to 1933. His "Stations of the Cross" was first published as part of a cycle of 56 poems on the liturgical year in 1911.

Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

The son of a distinguished organist, Marcel Dupre emerged on the French organ scene with meteoric effect. His performance from memory of the complete organ works of Bach in 1920 marked the first time the feat had been accomplished and catapulted Dupre to world-wide fame. He played many concerts in Michigan including the dedication of the original pipe organ in Orchestra Hall in Detroit in 1924. On February 13, 1931, he improvised 14 pieces on the organ at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels between readings of Claudel's 14 poems on "The Stations of the Cross". Dupre published these pieces as his Opus 29 and gave the first performance of his completed work at the Trocadero in Paris on March 29, 1932.

*The use of cameras or recording devices during the program is strictly prohibited. Dr. Mason's recording will be available for purchase at the reception.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

TEXTS

Paul Claudel
1911
translated by
Gail Kramer and
Sr. Judith Schweiss

MUSIC

Marcel Dupre
OPUS 29
1931

MARILYN MASON
Organ

JOHN POTTER
Narrator

Sunday, March 29, 1992
Seven O'clock in the evening

First United Methodist Church
Mount Clemens, Michigan



The Stations Of The Cross

- I. **Jesus is Condemned to Death**
The tumult of the crowd and their angry cries for Barrabas can be heard. The name of Barrabas is depicted by one of the rhythmic motives.
- II. **Jesus Receives His Cross**
Heavy, plodding figures as Jesus begins the journey toward Golgotha. The cross is symbolized by ascending fourths.
- III. **Jesus Falls the First Time**
Jesus' suffering is depicted by the descending triplet figure. Reflecting the heavy burden, the music is heard again.
- IV. **Jesus Meets His Mother**
A peaceful scene as Jesus comforts his mother. The motive of the Virgin Mary is descending, arpeggiated major chord.
- V. **Simon the Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross**
Jesus' load is lightened by Simon. The canon symbolizes following and sharing. The Cross motive is heard again.
- VI. **Jesus and Veronica**
The Compassion Motive (2 thirds ascending) is combined with the Cross Motive. The movement closes with the Redemptive Motive in "harmonies mysterieuses".
- VII. **Jesus Falls a Second Time**
The weariness of Jesus is shown by the descending seconds in the soprano.
- VIII. **Jesus Comforts the Women of Jerusalem**
The Motive of Pity is heard first. The voice of Jesus (on the trumpet) is then combined with the Pity Motive.

- IX. **Jesus Falls a Third Time**
A French Toccata. The persecution of Jesus is by a three-note figure in the left hand accompaniment by an ascending, diminished arpeggiated chord in the right hand.
- X. **Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes**
The flogging of Jesus is expressed through a constant, driving rhythm. The movement concludes with the Incarnation Motive of ascending minor third dyads.
- XI. **Jesus is Nailed to the Cross**
The hammer blows on the Crucifixion Motive (descending fourths) are heard throughout the movement. The Motive of Suffering returns near the end.
- XII. **Jesus Dies Upon the Cross**
Jesus' agony is expressed by a quiet four-note motive which fills in a tritone. Suddenly, there is an earthquake and Jesus dies.
- XIII. **The Body of Jesus is Taken from the Cross and Laid in the Arms of His Mother.**
The theme of the Virgin Mary returns as Mary beholds His face.
- XIV. **The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**
The motives of pity and suffering are combined. Jesus' redemption is depicted in a "final" section by a transformation of the motive of suffering, to a rising motive.

-Offering-

The offering will be used for expenses of the
Concerts at First Church.

Toccata and Fugue in D Minor
BWV 565
Johann Sebastian Bach