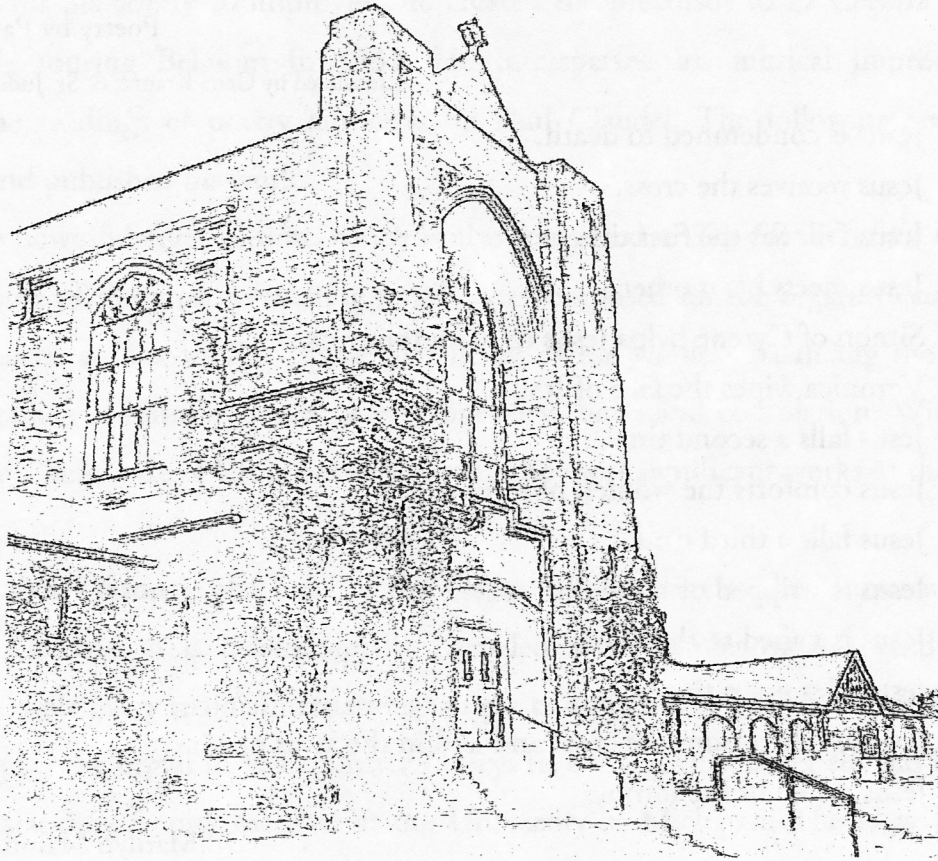


First Presbyterian Church

Great Falls, Montana



Le Chemin de la Croix

(The Way of the Cross)

composed by Marcel Dupré

Dr. Marilyn Mason, Organist

8:00 p.m., Good Friday

April 13, 2001

Le Chemin de la Croix

(The Way of the Cross)

Music composed by Marcel Dupre

Poetry by Paul Claudel

(translated by Gene Kramer & Sr. Judith Schweiss)

- I. Jesus is condemned to death.
- II. Jesus receives the cross.
- III. Jesus falls for the first time.
- IV. Jesus meets his mother.
- V. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry the cross.
- VI. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus.
- VII. Jesus falls a second time.
- VIII. Jesus comforts the women of Jerusalem.
- IX. Jesus falls a third time.
- X. Jesus is stripped of his clothing.
- XI. Jesus is nailed to the cross.
- XII. Jesus dies upon the cross.
- XIII. Jesus is taken from the cross and laid in the arms of Mary.
- XIV. Jesus is laid in the tomb.

Dr. Marilyn Mason, Organist
the Rev. Jerry Hazen, Reader

The Stations of the Cross are a series of pictures or tableaux representing scenes of the passion and death of Our Lord. Evolving from pilgrimages to the Holy Land, dating back to the reign of Constantine, the devotion was regularized by Pius IX in 1741. Paul Claudel's reflections on the stations were part of a cycle of 56 liturgical poems.

Music Notes

Marcel Dupre emerged upon the French organ scene with meteoric effect. Celebrated for his ability to improvise, he created the precursor to *Le Chemin de la Croix* while touring Belgium in 1931. He interspersed his musical impressions between the readings of poetry authored by Paul Claudel. The following year he perfected and published his work.

The powerful composition, which is also translated as *The Station of the Cross*, contains some of the most wrenching music ever composed for the organ. Recurring themes, known as "leit-motiv", provide a unity to the whole. Balancing the dark ominous sounds are luminous scenes of poignancy, hope and consolation. Without question *Le Chemin de la Croix* belongs among the most significant works of the 20th century.

Marilyn Mason is the head of the Organ Department at the University of Michigan. Dr. Mason is internationally regarded as a premier organist and has judged at almost every major international organ competition. She is first American woman to play the organ in Westminster Abbey. In her teaching career she has been elected outstanding faculty member at the University of Michigan. The New York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists also elected her performer of the year. Recently, Dr. Mason completed a commission by the Musical Heritage Society to record the complete organ works of Johann Pachelbel. The great organ of the University of Michigan recital hall is named in her honor. The privilege of Marilyn's presence at the First Presbyterian Church is due to her instruction of and lasting friendship with Mary Richards, our Organist.