

*Le Chemin de la Croix*  
*(The Stations of the Cross)*  
*Marcel Dupré*  
*(1886-1971)*

*Performed by*  
*Dr. Marilyn Mason*

*Narrated by*  
*Dr. David Wigston*

*Sunday, April 9, 2006*  
*3:30 P.M.*

*First Presbyterian Church*  
*746 S. Saginaw Street*  
*Flint, Michigan 48503*

# *The Stations of the Cross*

Inspired by the poems *Le Chemin de la Croix*  
Paul Claudel (1868-1955)

*Welcome — Dr. John Musgrave*

*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 Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry the Cross*

*VI. Jesus and Veronica*

*VII. Jesus Falls the Second Time*

*VIII. Jesus Comforts the Women of Jerusalem*

*IX. Jesus Falls a Third Time*

*X. Jesus is Stripped of His Clothes*

*XI. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross*

*XII. Jesus Dies Upon the Cross*

*XIII. The Body of Jesus is Taken from the  
Cross and Laid in Mary's Bosom*

*XIV. The Body of Jesus is Laid in the Tomb*

## Program Notes

**Dr. Marilyn Mason, Organist:** Professor Mason is University Organist and Chair of the Organ Department at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. Her extensive career as concert organist, lecturer, adjudicator, and teacher has carried her throughout the Western world. She was the first American woman organist to perform in Westminster Abbey, the first woman organist to play in Latin America, and the first American organist to perform in Egypt. During one year, invitations took her to five continents. She has served as adjudicator at almost every major organ competition in the world. Ms. Mason's dedication to contemporary music is evidenced by the 60 organ works she has commissioned and premiered. In 1987 she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music by the University of Nebraska. In 1988 she was chosen as Performer of the Year by the New York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Her discography, on Columbia and Musical Heritage Society labels, includes music of Bach, Handel, and contemporary composers.

**Marcel Dupré (1886-1971):** Marcel Dupré was born on May 3, 1886 in Rouen. His father, Albert, was an organist and his mother, Marie-Alice Chauvière, was a cellist. In 1888 he began his organ studies with Alexandre Guilmant and gave his first public performance in 1894. He was admitted to the Paris Conservatoire in 1902, receiving First Prize for piano in 1905, for organ and improvisation in 1907, and for fugue in 1909. In 1906 he was appointed Widor's assistant at the church of St Sulpice, in Paris, and was awarded the Prix de Rome in 1914 for his cantata *Psyché*. In 1920, he performed from memory the complete organ works of J. S. Bach in a series of ten recitals at the Paris Conservatoire, an achievement that brought him world recognition. His American début soon followed in 1921, and the first transcontinental tour of America in 1922. In 1926 he was appointed Professor of Organ at the Paris Conservatoire, succeeding Eugéné Gigout, and later served from 1954 to 1956 as Director of the Conservatoire. In 1934 he succeeded his long time friend and mentor, Charles-Marie Widor, as organist of the Church of St Sulpice in Paris, a post he held until the last day of his life. After a long and successful career as a teacher, performer, composer, and one of the greatest improvisers who ever lived, Marcel Dupré died quietly at his home in Meudon on May 30, 1971.

**Paul Claudel (1868-1955):** Dramatist, poet, essayist, and diplomat, was one of the most significant French literary figures in the first half of the twentieth century. His set of fourteen poems, *Le Chemin de la Croix*, was written in 1911. The English translation used in this program is by Gale Kramer and Sister Judith Schweiss.

**Stations of the Cross:** Christians have always wanted to walk in the footsteps of Jesus to the cross. For most of us this opportunity will not arise. However some pilgrims were able to return from the Holy Land with stories of their adventures and wanted to remember the 'way of the cross.' It was the Franciscans who first promoted the use of scenes from the last journey of Jesus to the cross. This was no doubt inspired by the Crusaders who often erected tableaux of places they had visited in the Holy Land. So has developed a devotion which has come to be called the 'Stations of the Cross.' The seventeenth century marks the time at which 'Stations' were placed on church walls. These 'Stations' or 'gathering places,' were centered around wooden crosses, with a scene from the last journey of the Passion placed beneath them. Over the years there have been as few as five, or over 30 'Stations.' In 1731 the number was fixed by Clement XII at fourteen. Nine of these commemorated events in the Gospels and five were taken from early tradition. So, when we hear the term 'Stations of the Cross' what we are usually referring to is a series of pictures or carvings depicting fourteen incidents in the last journey of Christ before his burial. Most churches will use them devotionally at during Lent or Holy Week.

**Dr. David Wigston, Narrator:** David Wigston was born in England into a musical and theatrical family; his father was principle double bass at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and his mother was in repertory theatre. Music, both concert and opera, have been part of his life "ever since I can remember." He performed on stage in roles such as Richard II, Richard III, and the Player King in *Hamlet* at U of M Flint. In music he is particularly interested in works that include narrative, such as *Peter and the Wolf* and *The Jungle Book*. He recently narrated the former with the Flint Symphony Orchestra. Despite his love of theatre, music and the arts, he chose to be a scientist and is currently Professor of Biology at the University of Michigan-Flint.