

Good Friday Procession of the Churches

Following a tradition that goes back decades, now eight of the Christian communities in Asylum Hill joined together in ecumenical fashion to share the “Journey of the Passion” on



Friday March 30th “Good Friday”. The three-hour event marks the time that Jesus spent on the cross before he dies, which is traditionally thought to have been from noon to 3:00 pm. As the group processes from Church to Church, one individual leads the procession carrying a large wooden cross just as Jesus did before his Crucifixion. At each location it is placed near the altar and at the conclusion, it is taken up

again and carried to the next.

This year again, the seven last words were divides among the eight communities, Trinity Episcopal Church, the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Asylum Hill Congregational church, Asylum Avenue Baptist Church, Glory Chapel, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Immanuel Congregational Church and most recently, Riverfront Family Church.

At each location, one of the seven last words is used as a basis for reflection, a short homily, music and hymn singing.

Since there are now eight stops in the procession and still only seven last words, some very creative adjustment was needed. The last of the seven words is “Father into your hands I commend my spirit”. At Immanuel Congregational Church those present were given a small wooden cross, and asked to reflect on what they would be willing to “commend into the Father’s hands” and then write that on the cross. At the final location, the 224 EcoSpace where Riverfront Family Church worships, everyone was encouraged to take their small cross on which they had written what they were willing to commend to the Father, and place it near the large cross. It was a very moving event for all present that was only enhanced by the weather that began with rain and cloudy skies at noon and slowly cleared over the next three hours.

Photos of the event are available at: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/N2IHRA3FTbKv7qme2>