

JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

NARRATION BY MARK TAYLOR
UNDERScores BY DON CHAPMAN

The *Journey to the Cross* Easter Service Guide contains *everything* you need (underscores, readings, tracks and songs) for about 25 minutes of Easter worship. This versatile service can be led with as little as a capable pianist and worship leader, or with a praise team, praise band and/or a full SATB choir (plus orchestral instruments with the orchestral instruments edition.) If you don't have any musicians, lead the service with the stereo tracks, or even mix tracks with live performances.

Get as elaborate as you want. Do all the readings with one person or select different elders/deacons and/or members of the congregation for each reading (make sure the people you select have expression and are committed to practicing with the included demos.) Or, just play the MP3 vocal demos of the readings. Have a pianist or a full band lead the songs.

The service guide is built around the Easter worship song I wrote with UK worship leader Tim Light: *Journey to the Cross* and is tied together with writer Mark Taylor's Scripture selections, original readings and prayers.

Ideas for using the *Journey to the Cross Service Guide*:

>What you'll need to provide for your service:

1. Up to 6 narrators. One person can do all the narration or pick a different person for each narration. Burn a CD or email your narrators the MP3 vocal demo and MP3 track so they can practice their timing. *The key to the service guide is the uninterrupted music flow!*

2. Sermon. There's a slot for the pastor's sermon.

3. Alternate Scripture. The KJV version is provided here for the Scripture readings, but you may have a favorite translation you'd rather use. Try "The Message" version for a contemporary reading.

>Tips for using the service guide:

1. Scarce musicians. Burn a CD of the underscores and vocal demos and play it in lieu of using musicians. Or, for the more tech savvy, play MP3s from a portable MP3 player or trigger from worship projection software like EasyWorship or MediaShout.

2. Keyboard player. The entire service can be conducted with a single, capable pianist. Have a keyboard player accompany the readers by playing the underscores under the narrations (the underscores have chords so a guitarist can play along, too.) You will want to have a short rehearsal with the pianist and narrators to make sure their timing is perfect.

3. Change keys. Finale MUS files are provided which will allow you to change the key if you own Finale or Sibelius 5 software. However, *I do not recommend changing the keys as the underscores are designed to transition you from song to song in the keys I've selected.*

4. Logo. A Photoshop file and TIFF file is included of the logo so you can reproduce it in your bulletin.

5. PowerPoint files. Standard definition PowerPoint files are provided for the songs. Widescreen blank slides are included if you want to build your own slides in that format.

6. Solos/Special Music. If you want a longer Easter service and have the musicians to pull it off, add a solo or choir special to the mix. You might include a favorite solo, praise team or choir special.

I can't stress enough that I want you to feel free to be creative with this service guide. Use it as is, use parts of it, switch readings, use your own music, whatever! Make it your own and have fun.

7. Mix and match solos, 3 part vocals and SATB choir. One advantage of the service guide is that it's flexible. If you just have a pianist and worship leader, use the lead sheets. Then in a year or two you may have a small vocal praise team and can use the 3 part vocals (and maybe even eventually you'll have a choir.) Don't feel you have to use just 3 part vocals or just choir. Have a worship leader or soloist lead a song, have a 3 part vocal group lead a few songs and then end with a larger SATB choir after the sermon.

8. CCLI. The songs in the *Journey to the Cross Service Guide* are registered with CCLI - please report copies as you would with any praise and worship song.

9. Video: WorshipFilms.com has created videos for all 6 songs in their Complete Easter: <http://www.worshipfilms.com> (sold separately.)

10. Optional Piano Offertory Solo. I've included an expanded version of my piano solo *My Jesus I Love Thee* from my Worship88.com website. It's in D major - designed to be played in the same key and thematically with *Jesus Paid It All*.

>Using Tracks:

If you plan on using tracks for your service, here's how it works. Instead of building your service and burning a CD with the individual tracks in order (which is fine if you want to do it that way,) use the "Combined" tracks. The "Combined" track folders are 2 MP3s with songs and underscores that flow seamlessly one to the other:

01_JourneyToTheCross_StereoTrack.mp3 (18:12) contains:

- Underscore 1 (optional keyboard or orchestral intro)
Journey to the Cross
- Underscore 2
Nothing but the Blood
- Underscore 3
When I Survey
- Underscore 4
Jesus Paid It All

Optional Piano Offertory: *My Jesus I Love Thee* (1:45) MP3 in Sheet Music Piano Solo folder

Break for sermon

02_JourneyToTheCross_StereoTrack.mp3 (8:11) contains:

- Prayer & Underscore 5
At the Cross
- Underscore 6
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Then I suggest you either play a live or demo MP3 version of *Journey to the Cross* as people exit (postlude.)

Use the combined MP3s so your worship will flow with minimal starting/stopping.

The "Stereo Tracks" and "Vocal Demos" folders contain all the songs and underscores as separate MP3s. Use these if you want more control over your service. Perhaps you want to perform the underscores live with narrators and a pianist, then sing with tracks, or vice-versa.

Powerpoint and some worship projection software will automatically play MP3s. Or try playing the tracks from an iPod or other MP3 player. Whether you go digital or use a burned CDROM to play the tracks, please make sure you test your setup with a full run-through!

>How to use this service guide:

Each part of this service guide is on one page. Print out all the pages for all your narrators so they can follow along and mark their parts.

The final page is a one page, at-a-glance overview so those involved can see the entire program.

If you're using the MP3 underscores, make sure the narrators have a chance to practice with them. Feel free to burn a CD or email the MP3s to them so they can make sure their narrations fit the music. Some keyboard underscores are composed with repeats making them more flexible.

Dead space kills a worship service! Both the keyboard underscores and MP3 underscores are designed to help you flow directly into the next song. If you're using the MP3s, wait until you hear the final chord - the chord will ring out for a few seconds giving you time to start playing the introduction to the next song.

I hope my *Journey to the Cross Easter Service Guide* helps your Church to worship our Risen King in a creative, meaningful way.

Don Chapman
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Questions or comments? Contact us at h2ghelp@heartstogod.com.

Find additional Easter resources at WorshipIdeas.com.