

Good Friday, April 14, 2006
Stauffer Chapel, 12:00 noon
Prayer of Personal Confession led by Bradley Griffin

Lord God, I confess that I am not blameless in the death of my Lord Jesus. It was for my sins that he willingly gave up his life so that I might have a future with you. You, above all else, know my sinful nature. You know that I fall short of your glory every day of my life, and yet you offer forgiveness and redemption through your crucified son. You seek to repair your covenant with me even when my sinful nature retreats to the hidden recesses of broken relationships.

But Lord, I know in the quiet moments that my heart is starving on a diet of self-indulgence, and as you have commanded through your servant James, I seek to feast in relationship with you by confessing my sins to the body of Christ.

Give me courage to open the secret chambers of my heart to your clarifying light.

On behalf of each person gathered here, I confess

That I have fled from your presence like Adam in the garden. I have tried to handle my sin alone, without you.

I confess

That I have taken your name in vain and have laughed while openly mocking the God of heaven and earth.

I confess

That I have laughed at the outcast, the homeless, the misfit, and the lonely. I have sneered at their misfortune, instead of weeping with those who weep. Like the priest in Christ's parable, I have crossed the road to avoid contact with the wounded brothers and sisters in my path.

I confess

That I have harbored malice, jealousy, anger, and bitterness in my heart. I have been secretly resentful of the prosperity of others.

I confess

That I have allowed my mind to dwell on thoughts and images that bring shame instead of glory to other human beings.

I confess

That at times I have forgotten how to honor my parents, the elders of my community, and those who have authority over me.

I confess

That I have withheld the truth and have sinned by my silence. I have also opened my mouth, but have spoken lies instead of truth.

I confess

That all too often I have accepted Satan's lie. I have believed my sin to be unique and have feared the rejection of my peers and closest friends if I dared tell the truth to reveal the flawed wretch I know I am. In believing this lie, I have willingly cut myself off from the healing power of true God-given community.

In confessing these sins, Lord, I ask for healing, for pardon, and for the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Not some day, Lord, not tomorrow, but now. Anoint me with your Holy Spirit, and let me leave this place in a renewed covenant relationship with you.

With my sins hanging on the cross, I turn back toward the light of your presence, and I offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, my crucified Savior, amen.