



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF WORSHIP

West End Presbyterian Church

7PM April 2, 2021

We encourage individuals and families to use this day to pray and reflect on the significance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Tonight's service of corporate prayer, Scripture reading, and confession of sin helps us to consider and respond to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ for us.

Tonight's offering will be used to provide support for the needy in our church and community and for ministries approved by the West End Presbyterian Church Diaconate.

Each cycle of this year's Good Friday liturgy pairs Old Testament prophecy and prayer with the teaching of Jesus and the account of His passion from the Gospels.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP ON GOOD FRIDAY

"When it comes to Good Friday the Gospels go into slow motion. They have passed over in silence whole decades of Jesus' life, and even when they pick up the threads of the public ministry there are weeks and months of which they say nothing. But when it comes to the crucifixion we have the sequence frame by frame; almost, indeed, an hourly bulletin. The crucifixion narrative goes into slow motion.

It is the pivot on which the world's redemption turns."

Donald Macleod

"On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide;
Through the floodgates of God's mercy
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,
Poured incessant from above,
And Heav'n's peace and perfect justice
Kissed a guilty world in love."

William Rees

GATHERING

BY THY MERCY

"Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16
Words by James Cummins (1839); Music by Greg Thompson; © 2004 Greg Thompson Music. Used by permission.

Soloist:

Jesus, Lord of life and glory
Bend from Heav'n Thy gracious ear
While our waiting souls adore Thee
Friend of helpless sinners, hear...

Congregation:

***By Thy mercy, O deliver us
Good Lord, good Lord
By Thy mercy, O deliver us
Good Lord, good Lord***

**From the depth of nature's blindness
From the hardening power of sin
From all malice and unkindness
From the pride that lurks within...**

**In the weary hours of sickness
In the times of grief and pain
When we feel our mortal weakness
When all human help is vain...**

**In the solemn hour of dying
In the awful judgment day
May our souls, on Thee relying
Find Thee still our Rock and Stay...**

***Congregation please rise, and remain standing through the singing of **Rock of Ages**.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 53:8-12

For He was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people He was stricken.

**He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in His death,
though He had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in His mouth.**

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush Him and cause Him to suffer,
and though the Lord makes His life a guilt offering,
He will see His offspring and prolong His days,
and the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand.

**After the suffering of His soul,
He will see the light of life, and be satisfied;
by His knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and He will bear their iniquities.**

Therefore I will give Him a portion among the great,
and He will divide the spoils with the strong,
because He poured out His life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For He bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

ROCK OF AGES

*"That rock was Christ." 1 Corinthians 10:4
Augustus Toplady (1776); Tune: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings (1830). Public domain.*

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee
Let the water and the blood,
From Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r**

**Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfil Thy law's demands
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone
Thou must save, and Thou alone**

**Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to Thy Cross I cling
Naked, come to Thee for dress
Helpless, look to Thee for grace
Foul, I to the Fountain fly
Wash me, Savior, or I die!**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes shall close in death
When I soar to worlds unknown
See Thee on Thy judgment throne
Rock of Ages, cleft for me
Let me hide myself in Thee**

***Congregation please be seated*

Jesus is Deserted

Psalm 31:9-14

Be merciful to me, O LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and my body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors; I am a dread to my friends— those who see me on the street flee from me. I am forgotten by them as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side; they conspire against me and plot to take my life. But I trust in you, O LORD; I say, "You are my God."

John 12:23-28

The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour?" No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!

Mark 14:32-41

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death; Stay here and keep watch."

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. "Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

Once more he went away and prayed the same thing.

When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."

Jesus is Denied

Zechariah 13:7

"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!" declares the LORD Almighty. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered..."

John 10:14-15

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.

Matthew 26:31,33-35

This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered."

Peter replied, "Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will."

"I tell you the truth, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."

"Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you."

And all the other disciples said the same.

Luke 22:54-62

Then seizing Jesus, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. But when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him." But he denied it. "I don't know him."

A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"No, I am not!"

About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

"I don't know what you're talking about!"

Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

HELP MY UNBELIEF

"Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, 'I believe; help my unbelief!'"

Mark 9:24

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**I know the Lord is nigh
And would but cannot pray
For Satan meets me when I try
And frights my soul away
And frights my soul away**

**Help my unbelief
Help my unbelief
Help my unbelief
My help must come from Thee**

**I would but can't repent
Though I endeavor oft
This stony heart can ne'er relent
Till Jesus makes it soft
Till Jesus makes it soft**

**I would but cannot love
Though wooed by love divine
No arguments have power to move
A soul as base as mine
A soul so base as mine**

**I would but cannot rest
In God's most holy will
I know what He appoints is best
And murmur at it still
I murmur at it still**

Jesus is Accused

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

John 8:44-45

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

Mark 14:53,55-64

They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, elders and teachers of the law came together. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him:

"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.'"

Yet even then their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?"

But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

"I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death.

Mark 15:1-15

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

"Are you the king of the Jews?"

"Yes, it is as you say."

The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him: "Aren't you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of."

But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

Now it was the custom at the Feast to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the

insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

“Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?”

Pilate knew it was out of envy that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?”

Congregation: “Crucify him!”

“Why? What crime has he committed?”

But they shouted all the louder,

Congregation: “Crucify him!”

Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Silence

their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

Mark 15:16-20

The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him,

Congregation: “Hail, king of the Jews!”

Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

*** Congregation please rise, and remain standing through the next set of readings.*

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!” 1 John 3:1

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE. American Folk Hymn (1835). Public Domain.

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul
What wondrous love is this, O my soul
What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse, for my soul, for my soul
To bear the dreadful curse, for my soul!**

**To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing
To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing
While millions join the theme, I will sing!**

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on
And through eternity I'll sing on!**

Jesus is Crucified

Psalm 22:1-2,6-8,14-18

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, and am not silent.
But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by men and despised by the people.
All who see me mock me; they hurl insults,
shaking their heads:
He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him.
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.

Jesus Suffered

Isaiah 53:1-6

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Congregation:

**He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
He was despised and rejected by men,
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.
Like one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
Surely he took up our infirmities
and carried our sorrows,
yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.
We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

1 Peter 2:21-24

To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled

I am poured out like water,
 and all my bones are out of joint.
 My heart has turned to wax;
 it has melted away within me.
 My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
 and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
 you lay me in the dust of death.
 Dogs have surrounded me;
 a band of evil men has encircled me,
 they have pierced my hands and my feet.
 I can count all my bones;
 people stare and gloat over me.
 They divide my garments among them
 and cast lots for my clothing.

Luke 9:23

If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself
 and take up his cross daily and follow me.

Luke 23:32-43

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said,

Congregation:

**“He saved others; let him save himself
 if he is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.”**

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said,

Congregation:

“If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS. One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him:

“Aren’t you the Christ? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him.

“Don’t you fear God . . . since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

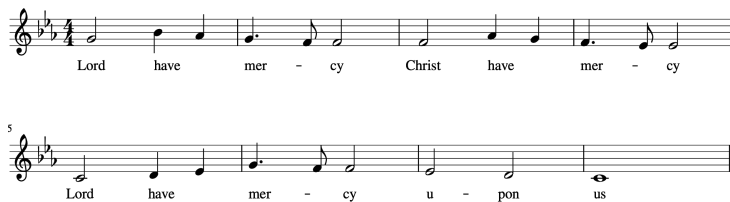
Jesus answered him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.”

LORD HAVE MERCY

“Have mercy on me God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.” Psalm 51:1

Becca Wethered, Lent 2021.

**Lord, have mercy
 Christ, have mercy
 Lord, have mercy upon us**



** Congregation please be seated

MINISTRY OF WORD & SACRAMENT

SERMON

Pastor Joe Brown

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

I Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

CONFESSION OF SIN & WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Psalm 51:1-17

**Have mercy on me, O God,
 according to Your steadfast love;
 according to Your abundant mercy
 blot out my transgressions.
 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
 and cleanse me from my sin!**

**For I know my transgressions,
 and my sin is ever before me.
 Against You, You only, have I sinned
 and done what is evil in Your sight,
 so that You may be justified in Your words
 and blameless in Your judgment.**

**Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.
Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,
and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

**Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that You have broken rejoice.
Hide Your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

Silent Confession of Sin

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
and sinners will return to You.
Deliver me from bloodguiltiness,
O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud
of Your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

**For You will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
You will not despise.**

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel, to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us.

There will be four tables on the floor at the front of the sanctuary. Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family. Feel free to take additional elements to bring back to your seats to serve others in your family or group. After all are served and have returned to their seats, we will take the bread and the cup together as a congregation. We recognize that some in the congregation may wish to abstain from partaking of the Lord's Supper for health reasons.

Wine and gluten free bread are in the double-cups. Grape juice and a wheat flour wafer are in the pre-packaged cups.

The elements of communion are prepared by healthy, trained members of WEPC taking the utmost care to be sanitized, gloved, and masked.

The Elders and/or Deacons presiding over the Supper are gloved and masked, standing at a safe distance from each communion table. Know that they are praying for you as the congregation participates in the sacrament.

If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, please raise your hand and an Elder will come to serve you the elements. If you are unable to attend a worship service and desire Elders to come to your home to administer the Lord's Supper, please let the church office know.

If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please contact the church office.

OFFERING

Tonight's offering provides support for the needy in our church and community and for ministries approved by the West End Presbyterian Church Diaconate. If participation in the offering is part of your worship, please place your offering in one of the offering plates near the rear Sanctuary doors, mail your offering to the church office (9008 Quioccasin Road, Henrico, VA, 23229), or visit www.wepc.org/giving for online giving options.

*** Congregation please rise*

WERE YOU THERE

*"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24
Traditional African American Spiritual. Public Domain.*

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord
Were you there when they crucified my Lord
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they crucified my Lord**

**Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree**

**Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb
O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb**

Jesus Dies

Exodus 12:21-23

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. Not one of you shall go out the door of his house until morning. When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down."

John 1:29

The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Luke 23:44-46

It was now about the sixth hour of Passover, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

When he had said this, he breathed his last.

DEPART IN SILENCE

Tonight's sermon was given by Pastor Joe Brown; worship was led by Pastor Kevin Greene, Congregational singing was led by Gordon Collier, Georgia Collier, and Becca Wethered; Scripture was read by Gary & Linda Pasquarell, George Wewaru, and Bob Lawrence; Tonight's live stream was managed by Deacon Tim Andrews and Rob MacBride; Elder Rick McWhorter managed sound.

If you are visiting with us, we hope that you will join us for worship on Easter Sunday at 9:00 & 10:30AM. More information on the WEPC website [here](#).

Please visit www.wepc.org to learn more about the life and ministries of our congregation.

All Scripture readings from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.