



First Presbyterian Church
Good Friday Service
March 29, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
“Between the Dust: The Shadow of the Cross”

PRELUDE

“Were You There”

Brown

WELCOME

Rev. Kyle Gott

***HYMN OF APPROACH** No. 442 “Just as I am, Without one Plea”

CALL TO WORSHIP (*based on Isaiah 53*)

Leader: Who has believed what we have heard? Who would have thought God’s saving power would look like this?

People: Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet we account him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

Leader: But it was our pain he carried—our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us.

People: We thought he brought it on himself, that God was punishing him for his own failures.

Leader: But it was our sins that did that to him, that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins!

People: He took the punishment, and that is what made us whole.

All: Through his bruises, we are healed.

*Please stand if able.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Emma Sirico

O Christ, who forsook no one but was forsaken by the closest of friends, and who committed no crime yet was sentenced to a criminal's death; we enter your presence in awe and adoration. On this day, centuries ago, you could have saved your life, but you refused to betray the purposes for which you had been born. You had come into the world to love God and neighbor as yourself; and when that love required you to shoulder a cross, you summoned the strength to bear it. Today, O Christ, as we sing and pray about the Cross, teach us its meaning once again, and help us to take up our cross and follow you. Amen.

ANTHEM

“O Come and Mourn”

arr. Dengler/Grier

Chancel Choir

*Were you at the cross of Jesus, were you there?
Did you go to dark Gethsemane
Your Redeemer's conflict see
Looking at the crosses three, were you there?*

*Were you are the cross of Jesus, were you there?
Did you watch one bitter grieving hour
Mourning this sweet wilting flower
Feeling all around God's power, were you there?*

*O Come and mourn with me awhile
And tarry here the cross beside.
O come together, let us mourn
Jesus our Lord is crucified.*

*Were you are the cross of Jesus, were you there?
Did you hear His seven words of love
Spoken by this wounded dove
“It is finished” God above, were you there?*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Chris Blackford

Jesus, Our Savior, we come to the foot of your Cross, and we weep with the disciples. With Mary, we ponder the mystery of your life and death. With those who witnessed your love spoken and shown, we proclaim the truth of who you are. We come to you this day, because you first came to us. We come to love you, because you first loved us. Heavenly Father, hear our prayers:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Christ Jesus was despised and rejected.

People: We thought nothing of him.

Leader: He was oppressed and afflicted.

People: We hid our faces from him.

Leader: He bore our sickness and sin.

People: We believed God was punishing him.

Leader: We, like sheep, have gone astray.

People: Yet he, like a lamb, was led to slaughter.

(pause for silent confession)

Leader: Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

People: Lamb of God, grant us peace. Amen.

***HYMN** No. 215

“What Wondrous Love Is This?”

JESUS IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

REFLECTION

Dan Brownell

ANTHEM

“Forsaken”
Chancel Choir

Forrest

Words by Dustin Battles, citing Psalm 13:1, Luke 22: 42 and Matthew 27: 46

*“How long my God will you neglect my prayer?
Will You forget these tears of dark despair
Yet not My will but Yours alone be done
Forsake not man but Me...your sinless Son.*

*I, Christ the Son, obey Your great command
Enduring punishment for sinful man
As Son and silent Lamb I choose this path
Accept rejection to appease your wrath.”*

*O why my god have You forsaken me?
Why have you now refused My final plea?
Though I cry out in sorrow, pain and fear
You turn Your back in silence, in silence disappear*

*I, Christ the Son, obey Your great command
Embracing judgement from Your glorious throne
As Son and spotless Lamb I shed, My blood
To bring them boldly to Your face, My God
Forsake not man but Me...your sinless Son.*

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

(Tenebrae, in translation means “darkness” or “shadows.”)

The service of Tenebrae is a prolonged meditation on Christ’s suffering. Readings trace the story of Christ’s passion, music portrays his pathos, and the power of silence and darkness suggests the drama of this momentous day. As candles are extinguished, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death. We remember the cataclysmic nature of his sacrifice. We anticipate the joy of ultimate victory.

INVOCATION

Rev. Katie Rosenson

We have come together at this solemn moment in the life of the church to reflect on the sufferings of Our Lord in his last days and to dwell on our own shortcomings and human failings. Our hearts are great with sorrow and contrition, as we pray for forgiveness for the errors of our foolish and arrogant ways. The darkness covers us all, and our spirits are brought low. Come then, let us walk in the shadows. Come then, let us seek the light. Let us hear the passion narrative as it speaks to us from the gospel of John.

THE SHADOW OF BETRAYAL AND ARREST – Mari Satterlee

Jesus went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When he said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word which he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup which the Father has given me?" So the band of soldiers and their captain and the officers of the Judean authorities seized Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas; for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the religious authorities that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

The first candle is extinguished.

THE SHADOW OF DENIAL

Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. As this disciple was known to the high priest, he entered the court of the high priest along with Jesus, while Peter stood outside at the door. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman who guarded the gate said to Peter, "Are not you also one of this man's disciples?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and officers had made a charcoal fire, because it was cold, and they were standing and warming themselves; Peter also was with them, standing and warming himself. The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all Jewish people come together; I have said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Annas then sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They said to him, "You also are not one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the servants of the high priest, a kinsman of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Peter again denied it; and at once the cock crowed. And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, "Before a cock crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Before the Throne of God Above *from Hope in the Shadows*"

Raney

Words: Bancroft and Cook

Before the throne of God above

I have a strong and perfect plea

A great High Priest whose name is Love

Whoever lives and pleads for me.

*My name is graven on his hands
My name is written on his heart
I know that while in heaven he stands
No tongue can bid me to depart.*

*When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of the guilt within
Upward I look and see him there
Who made an end to all my sin*

*Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the just is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me*

*See from his head, his hands, his feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did ever such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a present far too small
Love so amazing so divine
Demands my soul, my life, my all*

The second candle is extinguished.

THE SHADOW OF TRIAL – Ellen Chase

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so that they might not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not an evildoer, we would not have handed him over." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The religious authorities said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death." This was to fulfill the word which Jesus had spoken to show by what death he was to die. Pilate entered the

headquarters again and called Jesus, and said to him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?” Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?” Jesus answered, “My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the religious authorities; but my kingship is not from the world.” Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.” Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” After Pilate had said this, he went to the religious authorities again, and told them, “I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?” They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!”

MUSICAL MEDITATION “A Purple Robe, a Crown of Thorns *from Hope in the Shadows*”
Larson

Words: Dudley-Smith and Gabriel

*A purple robe, a crown of thorns
A reed in his right hand
Before the soldiers spite and scorn
I see my Savior stand
He bears between the Roman guard
The weight of all our woe
a stumbling figure bowed and scarred
I see my Savior go
He hands by whom the world was made
Beneath the darkened sky
The everlasting ransom paid
I see my Savior die
He shares on high his Father’s throne
Who one in mercy came
For all His love to sinners shown
I sing my Savior’s name*

The third candle is extinguished.

THE SHADOW OF HUMILIATION

Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and arrayed him in a purple robe; they came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. Pilate went out again, and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you, that you may know that I find no crime in him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him." The religious authorities answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid; he entered the headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore he who delivered me to you has the greater sin." Upon this Pilate sought to release him, but the religious authorities cried out, "'If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend; everyone who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.'" When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, and in Hebrew, Gab' · ba · tha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the religious authorities, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." They handed him over to them to be crucified.

HYMN No. 218, vs. 1-3

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

The fourth candle is extinguished.

THE SHADOW OF CRUCIFIXION – Rev. Kyle Gott

So they took Jesus, and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them. Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross; it read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” Many of the Judeans read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. The Jewish chief priests then said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘this man said, I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” When the soldiers had crucified Jesus they took his garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the scripture, “They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did this. But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Into God’s Hand *from Shadows*”

Wagner

Words: Charlotte Lee

*Into God’s hands we commend our spirits
Into God’s hands, we place our lives
And when at last we come to judgement
may choirs of angels lead us home
into paradise reopened
God’s holy city, Jerusalem*

The fifth candle is extinguished.

***THE SHADOW OF DEATH* – Rev. Katie Rosenson**

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), “I thirst.” A bowl full of vinegar stood there; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar on hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, “It is finished”; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the religious authorities asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth—that you also may believe. For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled, “Not a bone of him shall be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on him whom they have pierced.”

MUSICAL MEDITATION “In Darkness Do I Wander *from Shadows*”

Wagner

Words: Charlotte Lee

*In darkness do I wander, alone and filled with grief
blinded by my selfish pity, crippled by my unbelief
Help me Lord, to know forgiveness for the weight of sin I bear
Keep me close to you, Lord Jesus
in your safe and loving care*

*In darkness do I wander, inconsolable I roam
a sheep strayed from its shepherd
a sinner far from home
Be the light that guides my footsteps
Be my strength when flesh is weak
Be the everlasting mercy Lord,
my refuge and retreat.*

In darkness do I wander, alone.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

THE SHADOW OF THE TOMB – Rev. Kyle Gott

After this, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the religious authorities, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him leave. So he came and took away his body. Nicodemus also, who had at first come to him by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds' weight. They took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb where no one had ever been laid. So because of the Jewish Day of Preparation, as the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

The Christ candle is extinguished.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

“Dear Hate”
Nathan Gott

Morris

Dear Hate
I saw you on the news today
Like a shock that takes my breath away
You fall like rain, cover us in drops of pain
I'm afraid that we just might drown

Dear Hate
Well, you sure are colorblind
Your kiss is the cruelest kind
You could poison any mind
Just look at mine

*Don't know how this world keeps spinning 'round and 'round
You were there in the garden, like a snake in the grass
I see you in the morning staring through the looking glass
You whisper down through history and echo through these halls
But I hate to tell you, love's gonna conquer all*

Dear Hate

*You were smiling from that Selma bridge
In Dallas, when that bullet hit and Jackie cried
You pulled those towers from the sky
But even on our darkest nights
The world keeps spinning 'round*

*You were there in the garden, like a snake in the grass
I see you in the morning staring through the looking glass
You whisper down through history and echo through these halls
But I hate to tell you, love's gonna conquer all*

*Ooh ooh ooh
Ooh ooh ooh
Ooh ooh ooh*

Dear Love

*Just when I think you've given up
You were there in the garden when I ran from your voice
I hear you every morning through the chaos and the noise
You still whisper down through history and echo through these halls
And tell me love's gonna conquer all
Gonna conquer all*

Bell is tolled 33 times.

THE LORD’S PRAYER IN UNISON

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SOLO

“Were You There?”

Spiritual

Jim Scofield

Dismissal in Silence