

The First Presbyterian Church *in the City of New York*

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7th, 2023 | 12:00 p.m.

Good Friday proclaims the good news of salvation through the paradoxical suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through word, music, and silence, we hear and reflect on the Gospel writers' witness to the last words. Jesus spoke at the time of his crucifixion.

GATHERING

The service begins in silence.

SOLEMN PROCESSION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Please stand in body or spirit.

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,
who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation,

Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

from Philippians 2:8

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God,

you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross.

Save us from hardness of heart,

that, seeing him who died for us,

we may repent, confess our sin,

and receive your overflowing love,

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN 226

“There in God's Garden”
stanzas 1-4

SHADES MOUNTAIN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

MEDITATIONS ON THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS

THE FIRST WORD

“Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”

READING

Luke 22:39-23:34
pew Bible, New Testament page 87/large print, New Testament page 106

ANTHEM

Orlando Gibbons
Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet, which brought from heaven the news
and Prince of Peace. Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat; to cry for vengeance sin doth
never cease. In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears; nor let his eye see sin, but
through my tears.
-Phineas Fletcher

MEDITATION

Silent Reflection

HYMN 218

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

SOUTHWELL

THE SECOND WORD

“. . .today you will be with me in Paradise.”

READING

Luke 23:35-43
pew Bible, New Testament page 89/large print, New Testament page 108

ANTHEM

arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw
What wondrous love is this, O my soul, that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul. When I was sinking down beneath God’s righteous frown, Christ laid aside His
crown for my soul. To God and to the Lamb who is the Great “I Am,” I will sing, while millions
join the theme I will sing. And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be, and thro’
eternity I’ll sing on.
-from *General Selection of the Newest and Most Admired Hymns and Spiritual Songs Now in Use*

MEDITATION

Silent Reflection

HYMN 417

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

SOUTHWELL

THE THIRD WORD

“Woman, here is your son.”

READING

John 19:25b-27
pew Bible, New Testament page 114/large print, New Testament page 139

ANTHEM

African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were
you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? O!
Sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
there when the sun refused to shine? O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there
when the sun refused to shine? Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? O! Sometimes
it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
-African American spiritual

MEDITATION

Silent Reflection

HYMN 216

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ST. CHRISTOPHER

THE FOURTH WORD
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

READING

Matthew 27:45-46
pew Bible, New Testament page 33/large print, New Testament page 40

ANTHEM

Chris DeBlasio
My thoughts hold mortal strife; I do detest my life, and with lamenting cries peace to my soul to bring oft calls that prince which here doth monarchise: —But he, grim-grinning king, who caitiffs scorns, and doth the blest surprise, late having deck'd with beauty's rose his tomb, disdains to crop a weed, and will not come.
—William Drummond of Hawthornden

MEDITATION

Silent Reflection

HYMN 212

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

MARTYRDOM

THE FIFTH WORD

“I am thirsty.”

READING

John 19:28-29
pew Bible, New Testament page 114/large print, New Testament page 139

ANTHEM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine, vere passum, immolatum in cruce pro homine: Cuius latus perforatum unda fluxit sanguine. Esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.
Hail true body, born of the Virgin Mary. Truly suffering, was sacrificed on the cross for all; from whose pierced side flowed blood, be for us a foretaste in the final judgment.
—Sequence Hymn for the Feast of Corpus Christi

MEDITATION

Silent Reflection

HYMN 224

Please stand in body or spirit.

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ROCKINGHAM

THE SIXTH WORD

“It is finished.”

READING

John 19:30
pew Bible, New Testament page 114/large print, New Testament page 139

ANTHEM

B. E. Boykin
For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
—John 3:16

MEDITATION

Silent Reflection

HYMN 220

Please stand in body or spirit.

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

REDHEAD 76

THE SEVENTH WORD

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

READING

Luke 23:44-46a
pew Bible, New Testament page 89/large print, New Testament page 109

ANTHEM

Antonio Lotti

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato: Passus, et sepultus est.

He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate: He suffered and was buried.

—from The Nicene Creed

MEDITATION

Silent Reflection

HYMN 221

Please stand in body or spirit.

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PASSION CHORALE

REMEMBERING AND GOING FORTH

READING

pew Bible, New Testament page 114/large print, New Testament page 139 John 19:31-42

HYMN 226

Please stand in body or spirit.

“There in God's Garden”
stanzas 5-6

SHADES MOUNTAIN

TOLLING OF THE BELL

The bell tolls thirty-three times – one toll for each year of the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.

The service ends in silence.

LEADING THIS AFTERNOON

MEDITATIONS

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*
Alexis Schutz, *Seminary Student*
Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor/Head of Staff*
Rev. Dr. Derrick W. McQueen, *Pastor*
– *St. James Presbyterian Church*
Emma Gristch, *Seminary Intern*
Rev. Emily Brewer, *Interim Associate Pastor*

LAY READERS

Mark Robertson
Myrle Wall
Nancy Buchanan
Nadine Stewart
Barbara Sherman
Esther Gowrie
Sean Sakamoto

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

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