

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

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## GOOD FRIDAY

March 29, 2024 | 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

*Worship begins in silence.*

### SOLEMN PROCESSION

### CALL TO WORSHIP

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Merciful God,**  
this Good Friday we join our voices  
to the words of Jesus on the cross,  
and the cry of all who feel abandoned,  
“My God, why have you forsaken me?”

Before we race in quickly  
with the triumphant answer,  
or the desire to set things right,  
we stand alongside  
this ancient cry of dereliction.

So today we place ourselves  
with all those who cry out  
for food and justice, for work and healing,  
for hope and love, for faith and for meaning:  
we hear their pain and the pain of Jesus Christ.

O God, we cry out to you.  
Receive our worship.  
Amen.

### HYMN 226

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

“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

William Walton

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful 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

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

### SILENT REFLECTION

### HYMN 218

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## 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

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

Rev. Ashley Bair

### SILENT REFLECTION

### HYMN 417

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me”

SOUTHWELL

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

## 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

The words may be found at *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 228.

### MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson

### SILENT REFLECTION

### HYMN 216

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ST. CHRISTOPHER

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

Ken Burton

O Lord, the hard-won miles have worn my stumbling feet: oh, soothe me with thy smiles, and make my life complete.

The thorns were thick and keen where'er I trembling trod; the way was long between my wounded feet and God.

Where healing waters flow do thou my footsteps lead. My heart is aching so; thy gracious balm I need.

-Paul Laurence Dunbar

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN 212

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

MARTYRDOM

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

THE FIFTH WORD

“I am thirsty.”

READING

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

ANTHEM

Herbert Howells

Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks: so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God: when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night: while they daily say unto me, where is now thy God?

-Psalm 42:1-3

MEDITATION

Rev. Daniel Rivera

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN 224

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ROCKINGHAM

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

THE SIXTH WORD

“It is finished.”

READING

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

ANTHEM

Marc Antonio Ingegneri

*O bone Jesu, miserere nobis, quia tu creasti nos, tu redemisti nos sanguine tuo pretiosissimo.*

O good Jesus, have mercy upon us, for thou hast created us, thou hast redeemed us by thy most precious blood.

-ancient hymn; sung in Latin

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Derrick W. McQueen

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN 220

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

REDHEAD 76

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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

*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; sung in Latin

Antonio Lotti

MEDITATION

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN 221

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PASSION CHORALE

REMEMBERING AND GOING FORTH

READING

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

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.

*Worship ends in silence.*

LEADING THIS AFTERNOON

MEDITATIONS

Rev. Dr. Barbara Davis, *Executive Minister*

Rev. Ashley Bair, *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Emma Jordan-Simpson, *President*  
Auburn Theological Seminary

Rev. Daniel Rivera, *Pastor*  
First Spanish Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Derrick W. McQueen, *Pastor*  
St. James Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor*

LAY READERS

Esther Gowrie

Sean Sakamoto

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

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