



Alexandra Presbyterian Church

## Good Friday

April 2, 2021

Minister: Rev Joyce DeGier VanderSpek  
Stephanie Burgoyne, music director  
Kaitlin Vandertuin, soprano

### GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

#### PRELUDE

### WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP

#### Good Friday Litany

The night and day are dark and difficult.  
This man did not deserve to be hit and spat upon—  
denied, forsaken, mocked.

**Crucify him! Crucify him!**

This is the hardest part of the journey—Jesus betrayed, arrested, brought before the authorities,  
tried and condemned.

Beaten, rejected, a crown of thorns pressed on his brow, and the crowd chants “Crucify him!”

**Crucify him! Crucify him!**

Head bowed down, the Lord of life is condemned to die.

O Lord, was this for us?

**God, forgive us for all the ways we have left you  
and not followed you and your ways.**

It is finished. The temple veil torn. The world is dark. Silence.

Let us pray.

**God of truth, keep us from being distracted from following you, until the journey is complete,  
and death is trampled down by death and eternal life is given to all. In the name of Jesus we  
pray, Amen.**

Adapted from the original written by the Rev. Mary Whitson  
*“May the Lord bless the reading of His word to our hearts.”*

**\* PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION**

King of Glory,  
we adore you, our Savior and Lord.  
You suffered on the cross  
and gave your life as a ransom for many.  
We bless and thank you for the outpouring of your love  
and offer our worship today out of unspeakable gratitude.  
Loving God, we know that you love us,  
so we confess that we have let you down.  
Every day we betray you, deny you, misunderstand you, crucify you.  
We betray you when we are selfish or unkind.  
We deny you when we do not speak out for justice and truth.  
We misunderstand you when we justify our actions  
by misquoting your teaching.  
We are truly sorry, and we wait for your word of love.  
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.*

*For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.*

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace through the blood of his cross.  
And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,  
he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death,  
so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him.  
Brothers and sisters: through the cross of Christ  
we are forgiven and reconciled to God. Praise be to God!  
—based on Colossians 1:19-22, NRSV

**WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

**SCRIPTURES**

Old Testament: Psalm 22  
New Testament: Colossians 1:19-22  
Gospel: Matthew 27:45-56

**HYMN 231** When I survey the wondrous Cross

**MEDITATION** "My God, My God"

**CLOSING MEDITATION** Variation on "O Sacred Head" arr. D. Bedard

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### \* DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
raise Him above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

### PRAYERS OF COMMITMENT, THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION:

*Please note that we will be praying through the words that Christ spoke while on the cross.  
Based on Psalm 88; Mark 15:34; Luke 23:34, 43, 46; John 19:26-30, I will speak the words of Christ  
and then we will pray them with a pause for reflection between each prayer.*

#### **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."**

Loving Father, to whom your crucified Son prayed  
for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing,  
grant that we too may be included in that prayer.  
Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention,  
be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace  
in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior. **Amen.**

#### **"Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."**

O Lord Jesus Christ, who promised  
to the repentant the joy of paradise,  
enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive  
your grace in this world and in the world to come. **Amen.**

#### **"Woman, behold your son. . . . Behold your mother."**

O blessed Savior, in your hour of greatest suffering  
you expressed compassion for your mother  
and made arrangements for her care;  
grant that we who seek to follow your example  
may show our concern for the needs of others,  
reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family.  
Hear this our prayer for your mercy's sake. **Amen.**

#### **"Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?")**

O Lord, I call for help by day,  
and in the night I still must cry.  
Regard me, listen to my prayer.  
My soul is troubled; I am weak,  
cut off as one whom you forsake,  
forgotten near the pit of death.  
Your wrath weighs heavy on me here;  
your angry waves upon me break.  
Friends watch in horror from afar;  
I am shut in without escape.  
My eyes are dim because I weep'  
my hands are lifted up to you.  
Do you work wonders for the dead?

Can graves tell out your mighty deeds?  
There, who can know that you can save?  
Lord, do not hide your face from me.  
You have afflicted me from youth.  
Your anger is destroying me.  
Your flood of anger closes in.  
The darkness is my closest friend—  
shunned and forsaken, all alone. **Amen.**

**“I thirst.”**

O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry  
and whose throat was parched,  
grant us the water of life,  
that we who thirst after righteousness  
may find it quenched by your love and mercy,  
leading us to bring this same relief to others. Amen.

**“It is finished.”**

O Lord Jesus Christ, you finished  
the work that you were sent to do;  
enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call.  
Grant us strength to bear our crosses  
and endure our sufferings, even unto death.  
Enable us to live and love so faithfully  
that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness,  
O Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

**“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”**

Father, into whose hands your Son, Jesus Christ,  
commended his spirit,  
grant that we too, following his example,  
may in all of life and at the moment of our death  
entrust our lives into your faithful hands of love.  
In the name of Jesus, who gave his life for us all. Amen.

—based on Psalm 88; Mark 15:34; Luke 23:34, 43, 46; John 19:26-30

**\* BENEDICTION**

May you find in the cross a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope, and the assurance of sins forgiven.  
And may the blessing of God go with you,  
now and forevermore. Amen.

**\* CHORAL AMEN**

*Silence*



*Meditation script was not available at time of mailing and will be mailed out next Tuesday.*