

**Good Friday**



**April 18, 2025**

## Welcome and Gathering

One: We gather on this holy day, coming from different traditions, yet drawn together by the story of love and sacrifice, of suffering and solidarity. On this Good Friday, we remember the depth of God's love revealed in Jesus, who stood with the oppressed, confronted injustice, and bore the weight of the world's brokenness.

**All: We come with open hearts, willing to listen, to reflect, and to stand in the mystery of this day.**

### Opening Prayer

One: O Holy One, on this day of shadows, we come before you in solemn remembrance. In the face of suffering and injustice, we confess our own complicity in the world's pain. As we walk this journey to the cross, may we find not only grief but also truth. May we discover not only sorrow but also love—a love that refuses to let death have the final word. Be with us in this hour, as we remember, as we weep, and as we watch for the dawn of hope.

**All: Amen.**

**Music for Reflection**      Were You There      African American Spiritual  
(The Reverend Mary Edes)

### The Passion: John 18:1—19:42

NARRATOR: Jesus went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and

weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them,

JESUS: Whom are you looking for?

NARRATOR: They answered,

**ALL (THE CROWD): Jesus of Nazareth.**

JESUS: I am he.

NARRATOR: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again, he asked them,

JESUS: Whom are you looking for?

**ALL (THE CROWD): Jesus of Nazareth.**

JESUS: I told you that I am he. So, if you are looking for me, let these men go.

NARRATOR: This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

JESUS: Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?

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NARRATOR: So, the soldiers, their officer, and the Judean police arrested Jesus and bound him. First, they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was

the one who had advised the Judeans that it was better to have one person die for the people. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in.

SERVANT GIRL: You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?

PETER: I am not.

NARRATOR: Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

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NARRATOR: Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered,

JESUS: I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Judeans come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.

NARRATOR: When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying,

OFFICER: Is that how you answer the high priest?

JESUS: If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

NARRATOR: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

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NARRATOR: Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself.  
They asked him,

**ALL (THE CROWD): You are not also one of his disciples, are you?**

PETER: I am not.

NARRATOR: One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

SLAVE: Did I not see you in the garden with him?

NARRATOR: Again, Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

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NARRATOR: Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So, Pilate went out to them and asked,

PILATE: What accusation do you bring against this man?

**ALL (THE CROWD): If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.**

PILATE: Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.

**ALL (THE CROWD): We are not permitted to put anyone to death.**

NARRATOR: (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

PILATE: Are you the King of the Judeans?

JESUS: Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?

PILATE: I am not a Judean, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?

JESUS: My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.

PILATE: So, you are a king?

JESUS: You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.

PILATE: What is truth?

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NARRATOR: After he had said this, Pilate went out and told the crowd,

PILATE: I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Judeans?

**ALL (THE CROWD): Not this man, but Barabbas!**

NARRATOR: Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying,

SOLDIERS: Hail, King of the Judeans!

NARRATOR: And they struck him on the face. Pilate went out again and said,

PILATE: Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know I find no case against him.

NARRATOR: So, Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.

PILATE: Here is the man!

NARRATOR: When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,

**ALL (THE CROWD): Crucify him! Crucify him!**

PILATE: Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.

**ALL (THE CROWD): He has claimed to be the Son of God!**

NARRATOR: Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus,

PILATE: Where are you from?

NARRATOR: But Jesus gave him no answer.

PILATE: Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?

JESUS: You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above.

NARRATOR: From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the crowd cried out,

**ALL (THE CROWD): If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor.**

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NARRATOR: Then Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. So, they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Judeans." Many of the Judeans read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Judeans said to Pilate,

**ALL (THE CROWD): Do not write, "The King of the Judeans," but, "This man said, I am King of the Judeans."**

PILATE: What I have written, I have written.

NARRATOR: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top.

SOLDIERS: Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it.

NARRATOR: This was to fulfill what the scripture says: *"They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."* And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near 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 beside her, he said to his mother, JESUS: Woman, here is your son.

NARRATOR: Then he said to the disciple,



JESUS: Here is your mother.

NARRATOR: And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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NARRATOR: After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture):

JESUS: I am thirsty.

NARRATOR: A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So, they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said,

JESUS: It is finished.

NARRATOR: Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

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NARRATOR: Since it was the day of Preparation, the Judeans did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then 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. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, *"None of his bones shall be broken."* And again, another passage of scripture says, *"They will look on the one whom they have pierced."* After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the authorities, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so,

he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Judeans.

Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden, there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

## Silence

### Word In Music

### Watch with Me

Jane Griner/C. Marker

(First Church Chancel Choir and Friends)

Tarry here and watch with me. Blood and body proffered now  
to sanctify the pascal lamb; from warmth and comfort driven now  
to that most bitter cup; as He pled, we slept.

Tarry here and watch with me. Bowed by sin, yet unredeemed  
in sorrow even unto death; Thy will, not mine be done this night,  
in agony, He prayed. And as he bled, we slept.

Tarry here and watch with me. Friends a stone's throw distance kept.  
Succor sought, by angels giv'n;  
a kiss, betrayal and a cross.  
The hour is at hand; and as it fled, we slept.

## The Seven Last Words of Christ

1. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) – The Reverend Catherine Lauber
2. "Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43) -The Reverend Ann Cady

3. "Woman, here is your son... Here is your mother." (John 19:26-27) - The Reverend Gail Pomeroy Doktor
4. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34, Psalm 22) - The Reverend John Patrick
5. "I thirst." (John 19:28) -The Reverend John Hughes
6. "It is finished." (John 19:30) - The Reverend Andrew Anderson
7. "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Luke 23:46) - The Reverend Walt Hampton

**Music for Reflection** Jesus, Remember Me  
(Taizé chant led by The Reverend Mary Edes)

## **The Solemn Intercessions**

### **The Veneration of the Cross**

*You are invited to come forward in silence just to be present at the cross. You may place a stone, or a written prayer, or light a candle at the foot of the cross as a sign of surrender, grief, or devotion.*

## **Closing**

*Depart in Silence*

*Deep gratitude for the music of the First Church Chancel Choir and friends, under the leadership of Anne Polak, together with Pianist/Organist Patrick Speckamp; and the spectacular voice of The Reverend Mary Edes.*