

REDEEMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# GOOD FRIDAY.

APRIL 2, 2021

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## Meditation

*The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth,  
and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.  
The LORD regretted that he had made human beings on the earth,  
and his heart was deeply troubled.*

*Genesis 6:5-6*

*For the LORD your God is living among you.  
He is a mighty savior.  
He will take delight in you with gladness.  
With his love, he will calm all your fears.  
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.*

*Zephaniah 3:17*

# Call to Worship

*Leader* Let us testify to what God has said:

With all our endless trying to make ourselves right,  
the very thing we were powerless to do,  
God did himself, by sending his son as a representative.

*All* **He put the likeness of our evil on Jesus.  
He saw our wickedness when he looked at his son.**

*Leader* So that when Jesus died, his death was treated as a punishment  
for the whole of our sinfulness.

*All* **In this way he fully condemned sin in the crucified body of Jesus.**

*Leader* Children of God, look!  
The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

## Song

*"Were You There"*

*All*

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?  
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?**

**Were you there when they mocked the King of kings?  
Were you there when they mocked the King of kings?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they mocked the King of kings?**

**Were you there when our sin on him was laid?  
Were you there when our sin on him was laid?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when our sin on him was laid?**

**Were you there when he washed us in his grace?**

*African-American Spiritual, 1899, arrangement and additional lyrics: Nathan Partain, 2018*

# Lesson 1: This is my Body, Broken for You

*Matthew 26:26-28*

*Reader*

<sup>26</sup> While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.” <sup>27</sup> Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. <sup>28</sup> This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

*All*

**Jesus, as you were heading toward your death, you gave yourself willingly for us.  
We who blame you when things are difficult or use you for what we think  
you will do for us.**

**Jesus please take our sin, though it is great;  
we place our whole life of self-seeking upon your cross.**

## Song

*“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”*

*All*

**Alas! And did my Savior bleed and did my Sovereign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?  
Was it for crimes that I had done he groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!**

**Well might the sun in darkness hide and shut his glories in,  
When Christ, the mighty Maker died, for man the creature’s sin.  
Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears?  
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt my eyes in tears.**

**But drops of grief can ne’er repay the debt of love I owe:  
Here, Lord, I give myself away ’tis all that I can do.  
Alas! And did my Savior bleed and did my Sovereign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head for such a worm as I?**

*music Irish Traditional, Arr. Bruce Benedict, 2004; words Isaac Watts, 1707*

## Lesson 2: Your Will Be Done

*Luke 22:39-46; Matthew 26:47-54*

*Reader*

<sup>39</sup> Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” <sup>41</sup> He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” <sup>43</sup> An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. <sup>44</sup> And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

<sup>45</sup> When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. <sup>46</sup> “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” <sup>49</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>52</sup> “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

*All*

**Jesus, knowing what you were about to endure for our sake,  
you didn’t want to do it but you gave your will over to your Father in heaven.  
We submit to no one.  
We obey only when it makes sense to us.  
We are resentful when asked to set our will aside.**

**Jesus please take our sin, though it is great;  
we place our whole life of rebellion upon your cross.**

## Song

*“Ah Holy Jesus”*

*All*

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,  
That man to judge thee hath in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.**

**Who was the guilty who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
’Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee:  
I crucified thee.**

**For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,  
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life’s oblation:  
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,  
For my salvation.**

*words: Johann Heermann, 1630; music: Herzliebster Jesu, Johann Cruger, 1640*

## Lesson 3: The Good Confession

*from Matthew 27:11-26*

*Reader*

<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“It is as you have said,” Jesus replied.

<sup>12</sup> When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. <sup>13</sup> Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?”

<sup>14</sup> But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

<sup>15</sup> Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. <sup>16</sup> At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas.

<sup>17</sup> So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” <sup>18</sup> For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him.

<sup>19</sup> While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

<sup>20</sup> But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

<sup>21</sup> "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor.

"Barabbas," they answered.

<sup>22</sup> "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked.

They all answered, "Crucify him!"

<sup>23</sup> "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

<sup>24</sup> When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!"

<sup>25</sup> All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!"

<sup>26</sup> Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

*All*

**Jesus, you testified to the truth even when it would mean danger, pain and death.  
You remained silent and refused to defend yourself against false accusations.  
We disown you at the first risk to our comfort and cannot bear to be misunderstood,  
so we hide that we are Christians.**

**Jesus please take our sin, though it is great;  
we place our whole life of denying you upon your cross.**

## Song

*“O Sacred Head”*

*All*

O sacred Head, now wounded,  
With grief and shame weighed down,  
Now scornfully surrounded  
With thorns, thine only crown.  
O sacred Head, what glory,  
What bliss till now was thine!  
Yet, though despised and gory,  
I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered  
Was all for sinners' gain:  
Mine, mine was the transgression,  
But thine the deadly pain.  
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!  
'Tis I deserve thy place;  
Look on me with thy favor,  
Vouchsafe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow  
To thank thee, dearest Friend,  
For this, thy dying sorrow,  
Thy pity without end?  
O make me thine forever;  
And should I fainting be,  
Lord, let me never, never  
Outlive my love to thee.

*words Bernard of Clairvaux, 1153; tr. James W. Alexander, 1830; Hans L. Hassler, 1601 Public Domain*

## Lesson 4: Bless Those Who Curse You

*Matthew 27:27-31; Luke 23:32-43*

*Reader*

<sup>27</sup> Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. <sup>30</sup> They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. <sup>31</sup> After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. <sup>33</sup> When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

<sup>35</sup> The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

<sup>36</sup> The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar<sup>37</sup> and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

<sup>38</sup> There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

<sup>40</sup> But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

<sup>42</sup> Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

*All*

**Jesus, what compassion.**

**To empathize with those who were hammering nails into your body,  
making fun of you, and bullying you in your weakness.**

**To pray for them and ask that the Father not to hold their violence  
on his son against them because they didn’t understand  
just how bad this thing was.**

**We hate those who hurt us even a little  
and want them to suffer twice what they have done to us.**

**We are quick to curse, demean, and revile in return.**

**We resist showing forgiveness.**

**Jesus please take our sin, though it is great;**

**we place our whole life of anger, hatred, and revenge on your cross.**

# Lesson 5: By His Wounds, We are Healed

*Isaiah 53:1-9*

*Reader*

- <sup>1</sup> Who has believed our message  
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- <sup>2</sup> He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.
- <sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.
- <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.
- <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.
- <sup>6</sup> We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.
- <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and afflicted,  
yet he did not open his mouth;  
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,  
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.
- <sup>8</sup> By oppression and judgment he was taken away.  
Yet who of his generation protested?  
For he was cut off from the land of the living;  
for the transgression of my people he was punished.
- <sup>9</sup> He was assigned a grave with the wicked,  
and with the rich in his death,  
though he had done no violence,  
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

## Homily

Todd Dawkins

# Song

*“When I See the Blood”*

*All*

**Christ our Redeemer died on the cross,  
Died for the sinner, paid all his due.  
Sprinkle your soul with the blood of the Lamb,  
And I’ll pass over you.**

**Chiefest of sinners, Jesus can save;  
All he has promised, surely he’ll do.  
Wash in the fountain where sinners can bathe,  
And I’ll pass over you.**

**When I see the blood of my Holy One,  
My wrath shall be quenched, my judgments be through.  
When I see the blood of my only Son,  
Yes, I will pass over you.**

**Judgment is coming, all will be there,  
Each one receiving justly his due.  
Hide in the saving, sin-cleansing blood,  
And I’ll pass over you.**

**When I see the blood of my Holy One,  
My wrath shall be quenched, my judgments be through.  
When I see the blood of my only Son,  
Yes, I will pass over you.**

**O great compassion! O boundless love!  
Now crowned with power, Jesus is true;  
Find peace and shelter under his blood,  
And I’ll pass over you.**

**When I see the blood of my Holy One,  
My wrath shall be quenched, my judgments be through.  
When I see the blood of my only Son,  
Yes, I will pass over you.**

**When I see the blood of my only Son,  
Yes, I will pass over you.**

*words John G. Foote, Elisha A. Hoffman, 19th cent.; music Nathan Partain, 2004*

## Lesson 6: It is Finished

*John 19:28-30*

*Reader*      <sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. <sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

## Prayer of Celebration

*Leader*      Though your sins are great, he bore them all.  
By his tearing, you were made whole.

*All*            **Today I celebrate the day of my death.**  
**When in Christ, I stood before the Father condemned,**  
**and he exhausted all of his wrath on Christ instead of me.**

**All of my guilt has been punished.**  
**All of my debt has been paid.**  
**All of my evil history has been erased.**  
**All of my unfaithfulness has been forgiven.**  
**All of my shame has been removed.**  
**All of my ugliness has been healed.**  
**All of my judgement has been suffered.**

*Leader*      The Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all!

*All*            **Hallelujah!**  
**There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!**

## Song

*“There is a Fountain Filled with Blood”*

*All*

**There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel’s veins,  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains;  
Lose all their guilty stains, lose all their guilty stains,  
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains.**

**The dying thief rejoiced to see, that fountain in his day,  
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away;  
Washed all my sins away, washed all my sins away,  
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.**

**Dear dying Lamb, thy precious blood, shall never lose its pow’r,  
Till all the ransomed church of God, be saved to sin no more;  
Be saved to sin no more, be saved to sin no more,  
Till all the ransomed church of God, be saved to sin no more.**

**When this poor lisping, stamm’ring tongue lies silent in the grave,  
Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I’ll sing thy pow’r to save;  
I’ll sing thy pow’r to save, I’ll sing thy pow’r to save,  
Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I’ll sing thy pow’r to save.**

*words William Cowper, 1771; music Lowell Mason, 1830; Public Domain*

## Lesson 7: Waiting

*Luke 23:50–56*

*Reader*

<sup>50</sup> Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, <sup>51</sup> who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea, and he himself was waiting for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup> Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body. <sup>53</sup> Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no one had yet been laid. <sup>54</sup> It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

<sup>55</sup> The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. <sup>56</sup> Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

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