

Cover Art

Barb Knuckles, *Place of the Skull*, digital collage with linocut after Grunewald's Isenheim Altarpiece, 2024

Entryway Signs

Katie Pourcho, 2024

South Window

Barb Knuckles and the Creatives Class

Good bones. Structural, beautiful, remaining long after human flesh has returned to dust. Living bones shape us, enable movement and breathing, and generate blood. Likewise, God's words are the invisible scaffolding and life of creation. During Lent, we examine the sin-damaged and dead parts of our lives, asking God to breathe life into them just as he resurrected the dried bones in Ezekiel's vision. *(based on Ezekiel 34)*

Easter Celebration Times

Redeemer Presbyterian Church

8am, 9:30am, and 11am

Fountain Square Presbyterian Church

10:30am

Welcome

Silence

Prayer for Awakening

from John 14:9-11

Leader

Jesus said that his suffering and gruesome death was in fact
his glorifying who his Father is.
That watching him go through the events that we will relive tonight
was somehow revealing the Father's heart and personhood,
displaying his truth, justice, righteousness, compassion, zeal, power, and humility,
and showing how they all flow from his love.

All

Jesus, show us the Father!

Leader

Jesus says, "Don't you know me?
If you have seen me, you have seen the Father.
The words I speak are not from me,
it is the Father who is living in me, who is doing his work."

All

**Open our eyes then, Jesus,
and give life to our hard hearts tonight.
That in your presence, we would be awakened to how good you are,
shaken by how radical your love is for us,
and stirred up in our own affections for you.
May we know who you are tonight,
and be able to respond sincerely
in giving you all that we are.**

Prayer

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 1: Betrayal

from Psalm 41:9; John 13:21-30

Psalmist

*Even my close friend,
someone I trusted,
one who shared my bread,
has turned against me.*

Reader

It was the Passover Feast and Jesus had been looking forward to this time with his disciples before he entered into his suffering. He loved them dearly and as they ate and drank, he said many things to prepare them for what was about to happen and he prayed for them. But even while they were still enjoying the meal, Jesus became troubled in spirit and testified:

“Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me.”

His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, “Ask him which one he means.”

Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, “Lord, who is it?”

Jesus answered, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.” Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

So Jesus told him, “What you are about to do, do quickly.” But no one at the meal understood why Jesus said this to him. Since Judas had charge of the money, some thought Jesus was telling him to buy what was needed for the festival, or to give something to the poor. As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night.

Song

“Draw Near to My Soul—Psalm 69”

All

**The flood around me is rising; the water’s up to my neck.
My voice is worn out from crying. O Lord, please send me your help!**

**Draw near to my soul, O Lord!
Draw near to my soul, O Lord!**

**My flesh and blood no more own me; my fam’ly’s no more my home.
They hide their eyes from my grieving; they stop their ears from my groans.**

**Draw near to my soul, O Lord!
Draw near to my soul, O Lord!**

**I asked them all for some comfort; I begged, but there was no bread.
They gave me food that was poison; with wine, they left me for dead.**

**Draw near to my soul, O Lord!
Draw near to my soul, O Lord!**

Wendell Kimbrough, 2017

Lesson 2: The Garden

from Psalm 31:9-15; Luke 22:39-54

Psalmist

*Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress;
my eyes grow weak with sorrow,
my soul and body with grief.
My life is consumed by anguish
and my years by groaning;
my strength fails because of my affliction,
and my bones grow weak.*

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

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

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

⁴⁹ When Jesus’ followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we strike with our swords?” ⁵⁰ And one of them struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear.

⁵¹ But Jesus answered, “No more of this!” And he touched the man’s ear and healed him.

⁵² Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders, who had come for him, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.”

⁵⁴ Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest.

Song

“Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted”

All

**Stricken, smitten and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he!
'Tis the long expected prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
By his Son God now has spoken, 'tis the true and faithful Word.**

words Thomas Kelly, 1804; music Wo ist Jesus, mein Verlangen, 1850

Lesson 3: The Trials

from Psalm 64:2-4; John 18:19-24, 28-31, 33-40

Psalmist

*Hide me from the conspiracy of the wicked,
from the plots of evildoers.
They sharpen their tongues like swords
and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.
They shoot from ambush at the innocent;
they shoot suddenly, without fear.*

Reader

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

²⁰ “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. ²¹ Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.”

²² When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

²³ “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

All

**Tell me, ye who hear him groaning, was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning, foes insulting his distress:
Many hands were raised to wound him, none would interpose to save;
But the deepest stroke that pierced him; was the stroke that Justice gave.**

²⁸ Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning. ²⁹ When Pilate came out to them he asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?”

³⁰ “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.”

³¹ Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected.

³³ Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

³⁴ “Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”

³⁵ “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

³⁶ Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. ³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

⁴⁰ They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

Song

“Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted”

All

**Ye who think of sin but lightly, nor suppose the evil great,
Here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the Sacrifice appointed! See who bears the awful load!
’Tis the Word, the Lord’s Anointed, Son of Man and Son of God.**

words Thomas Kelly, 1804; music Wo ist Jesus, mein Verlangen, 1850

Reader

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³ and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face. ⁴ Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵ When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

⁶ As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷ The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸ When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹ and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.

¹⁰ “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

¹¹ Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

¹² From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

Reader

¹³ When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is *Gabbatha*). ¹⁴ It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

¹⁵ But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

“We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

¹⁶ Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

All

**Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost;
Christ the Rock of our salvation, his the Name of which we boast.
Lamb of God for sinners wounded! Sacrifice to cancel guilt!
None shall ever be confounded; who on him their hope have built.**

Stuart Townend, 1995

Lesson 4: Mocked and Beaten

from Psalm 69:19-21; Matthew 27:27-31

Psalmist You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed;
all my enemies are before you.
Scorn has broken my heart
and has left me helpless;
I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I found none.
They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

Reader Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 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. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 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.

Song

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

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, vouch safe 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
music: Hans L. Hassler, 1601

Lesson 5: Shamed and Tortured

from Psalm 22:7-8, 14-18; John 19:16-22; Matthew 27:39-54

Psalmist

*All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.
“He trusts in the LORD,” they say,
“let the LORD rescue him.
I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.
My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.
All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.
They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.*

Reader

The soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called *Golgotha*). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read:

JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS

Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

Song

“Rock of Ages”

All

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.**

words Augustus M. Toplady, 1776; music Thomas Hastings, 1830

Reader

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

Song

“Rock of Ages”

All

**Not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill thy Law’s demands;
Could my zeal no respite know?
Could my tears forever flow?
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save and thou alone.**

words Augustus M. Toplady, 1776; music Thomas Hastings, 1830

Reader From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*” which means:

Psalmist *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

Reader When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split and the tombs broke open.

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Song

“Rock of Ages”

All **Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to thy cross, I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die!**

words Augustus M. Toplady, 1776; music Thomas Hastings, 1830

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: Death

from John 11:17-35

Reader

It was not long before these things took place that Jesus had been in Bethany across the valley from Jerusalem. There, by God's plan, he did a miracle, the news of which spread across the whole area. He raised his dear friend Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary from the dead. Jesus knew then, that in saving his friend from death, he was sealing the fate of his own death. For it was this miracle that provoked the high priest Caiaphas and the ruling council to put into action their plan to kill Jesus at the hands of the Romans.

On his arrival at Bethany, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem,¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."

²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you."²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him.³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him.³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked.

"Come and see, Lord," they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

Homily

Ben Hein

Lesson 7: Burial

from Luke 23:50-55

Reader

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, 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. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body. 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. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin.

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

Prayer of Praise

from Hebrews 12:2

Leader

Children of God, fix your eyes on Jesus.

All

He is the originator and finisher of saving faith.

Leader

There was a joy held before him as he endured the cross,
the deep shame of it not mattering to him in comparison,
And then he sat down on the seat of highest honor by the throne of God.

All

What was the joy held out before him?

Leader

The promise of sharing the love of the Triune God with you, his Beloved.
You were what was on his mind as surrendered his power,
to take the punishment that you deserved but could not survive,
So that you could know only unfettered delight in the presence of God.

All

**Amen. No matter what comes,
Jesus, you are the joy set before me.**

Song

“Amazing Grace”

All

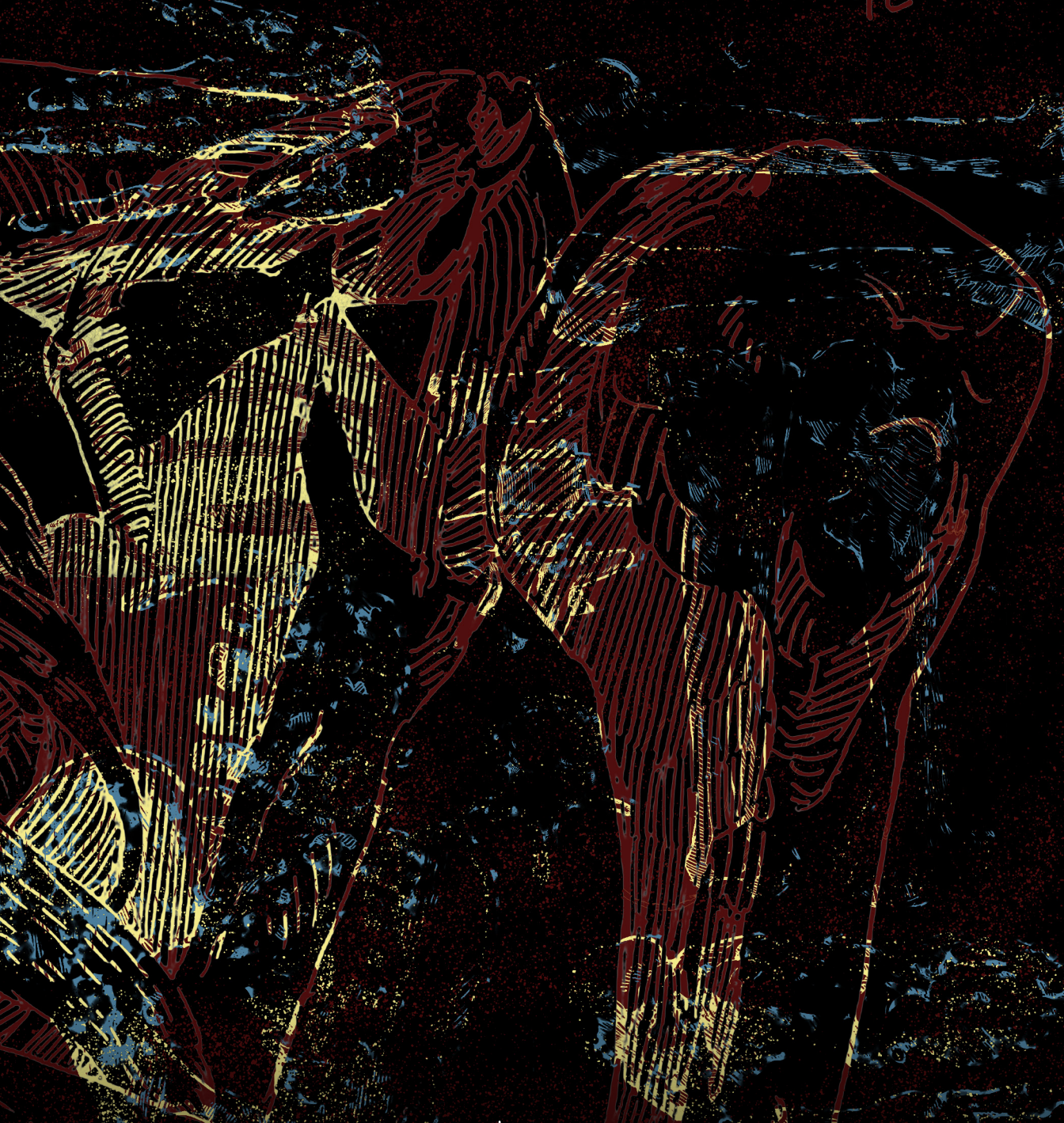
**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

**’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
’Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
His grace will lead me home.
His grace will lead me home.
His grace will lead me home.**

words John Newton, 1779; vs. 4 Anonymous, 1829
music James P. Carrell & David S. Clayton, 1831

(exit in silence)



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Fountain Square Presbyterian Church