



Thomas A. Edison
Congregational Church

MARCH 29, 2024



Order of Worship

Good Friday

** You are invited to stand
(Please remember to silence your cell phone during the service.)

When the prelude begins, let us quiet our hearts and conversation.

Prelude

Were You There?

Arr. By: John Purifoy
Tune: Traditional Spiritual

Call to Worship (Responsively)

One: From the busy-ness of our lives we have come here on a day that is different.

All: In the midst of the world which holds the promise of spring and new life, we have come to share a story of betrayal and execution.

One: Come and hear the tale, come, and share the tragedy,

All: Come and embrace the darkness.

Hymn of Faith #167

The Old Rugged Cross
Verses 1,2,3,4.

Prayer Beneath the Cross (unison)

God of Light, God of Shadow, in our time together today, keep us aware of your presence in the darkness, help us to see meaning in this terrible story, and keep the fire of hope alive in our hearts.

This we pray in the name of the man from Nazareth, the one who lived with a great Passion for your Way, the one whose death is nigh, the one who taught his friends to pray saying:

Lord's Prayer (unison)

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

Good Friday Scripture / Litany

**John 19 / O Sacred Head
Red Hansen, Baritone Bass**

Piano/Cello Arr. By: Gary Lanier

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they dressed Him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking Him on the face. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no case against Him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him; I find no case against Him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has claimed to be the Son of God."

⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are You from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to Him, “Do You refuse to speak to me? Do You not know that I have power to release You, and power to crucify You?” ¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over Me unless it had been given 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 release Him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” ¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” ¹⁶ Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified.

*O Sacred Head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown;
how pale Thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish,
which once was bright as morn!*

The Crucifixion of Jesus

So, they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by Himself, He went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰ Many of the Jews 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. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” ²³ 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. ²⁴ So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

“They divided My clothes among themselves,
and for My clothing they cast lots.”

²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

*What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered, was all for sinner's 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.*

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing beside her, He said to His mother, "Woman, here is your son."²⁷ Then He said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, He said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty."²⁹ 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.³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, He said, "It is finished." Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews 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.³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with Him.³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.)³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of His bones shall be broken."³⁷ And again

another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

*My burden in Thy Passion, Lord, Thou, has borne for me,
for it was my transgression which brought this woe on Thee.
I cast me down before Thee, wrath, were my rightful lot;
have mercy, I implore Thee; Redeemer, spurn me not!*

The Burial of Jesus

³⁸ After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so, he came and removed His body. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

*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 out live my love to Thee.*

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Pastoral Words

Gift of Music:

Red Hansen, Baritone Bass

“And The Crowd Cried Out”

By: Jay Althouse

*Were you there at the final supper?
Were you there when Jesus was betrayed?
Were you there in dark Gethsemane?
Were you there when He knelt and prayed?
Were you there when the soldiers seized Him?
Were you there when the crowd ran away?
Were you there when Peter disowned
Him three times by the break of day?*

*When Pilate asked Him the question:
“Are you the King of the Jews?”
Jesus replied, “You say I am a king.”
And the crowd cried out: “Crucify the accused!”
Were you there when the soldiers mocked Him?
Were you there when they treated Him with scorn?
Were you there when He wore a robe of scarlet,
on His head a crown of thorn?*

*Then He was led from the palace, accused,
convicted and tried.
High on a cross He was crucified that day.
And the crowd cried out, and He suffered and died.
Were you there on the third day of darkness?
Were you there on Resurrection Day
when an angel descended from heaven,
when he rolled the stone away?
Were you there on the third day of darkness?
Were you there?*

The Benediction of the Cross

One: May the Cross, a symbol of both suffering and transformation, be a guide in our journey towards the depths of self-discovery.

All: As the Cross stands tall, bearing witness to the weight of the world's struggles, may we too find strength in confronting our own challenges, recognizing that within them lies the potential for profound growth.

One: In the shadow of the Cross, may we discover the courage to face the complexities of our own being, embracing the paradoxes that make us uniquely human.

All: May the wounds of the Cross become windows through which the light of understanding streams into the depths of our souls, revealing the sacred interconnectedness of our experiences.

One: As the power and mystery of the Cross intersects with the wisdom that is being revealed to us, may we navigate the tensions of doubt and faith, finding in our struggles the raw material for a resilient and authentic spirituality.

All: May we recognize the transformative power inherent in embracing the depths of our own suffering, allowing it to become a source of hope and renewal.

One: May the benediction of the Cross be a reminder that even in the darkest moments, there is the potential for resurrection – a rebirth into a more authentic, compassionate, and integrated self.

**All: May we carry the wisdom of the Cross with us on our journey, allowing it to illuminate our path and infuse our existence with meaning and purpose.
Amen.**

Were You There?

piano/cello arrangement by: Daniel Kelley

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

*Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?*

*Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?*

HOLY WEEK

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 6:30 PM

Anton Pierce - Tenor

Red Hansen – Baritone Bass

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 AM

Dan England – Trombone

Dan Davis – Baritone/Saxophone

After a moment of reflection, please leave in silence.

**We are not passing an Offering Plate.
If you would like to participate in the ministry of this Church,
There is an Offering Plate located at the back of the Sanctuary
Near the center aisle door.**

Thank you for your prayers and your support.

Our Church Staff

Senior Minister – Rev. Jim Harper, III

Associate Minister – Rev. Anton Pierce

Administrative Assistant – Cindy Wilson

Director of Sacred Arts – Alena Michel

Pianist - Barry Pierce

Beth Moss – RN, MA Faith Community Nurse

Your gifts are deeply appreciated and enable this ministry to continue. Our church retains the right to redirect donations to the area of greatest need.



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