

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

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10 April 2020 noon

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*Good Friday continues from the Maundy Thursday service and is the solemn remembrance of Jesus' death. Our worship is marked by austerity and silence. The passion narrative from the Gospel of John (see John 18:1-19:37) is traditionally the appointed text for this day.*

*This worship service is a somber memory of the dark hours before our Lord's death. In spite of the solemnity of this worship, it is not by any means a funeral service for Jesus. We are in a time of quiet and serious contemplation of Jesus' courage of confidence in God having the last word in his final hours*

*In silence, we will depart this sacred time without benediction.*

### Gathering

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

**O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.**

In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted, and you delivered them. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

**But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:**

"He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let God deliver him, since God delights in him." Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

**People: From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.**

Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.

**My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.**

Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

**We will declare your name to your people; with your people we will praise you.**

### Prayer of Confession

We bow before the cross and see history repeat before our eyes. We identify with the mob, and we ask for your forgiveness. Lead us from being observers of the cross to being disciples of the cross. We pray through Christ, our crucified Lord. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

#### THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

*After each reading, the co-reader says, "Lord, have mercy." In the end, only the Christ candle remains.*

- 1. Matt 26:20-25 Shadow of Betrayal**
- 2. Luke 22:40-44 Shadow of Inner Agony**
- 3. Matt 26:40-45 Shadow of Loneliness**
- 4. Matt 26:47-50; 55-56 Shadow of Desertion**
- 5. Matt 26:59-67 Shadow of Accusation**
- 6. Mark 15:12-20 Shadow of Mockery**
- 7. Luke 23:33-46 Shadow of Death**

**Final Reading**

*In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. (John 1:1-4)*

**Departure**

You are invited to stay for a time of silent meditation and leave the meeting when you wish. The service will continue with the joint Easter Video on Easter morning.