

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

The music for tonight's service is Charles Tournemire's (1870-1939) *Sept Chorals-Poemes pour les sept paroles du Xrist* (*Seven Choral-Poems on the Seven Last Words of Christ*). Tournemire, the devoutly religious organist at the Basilique Sainte-Clotilde in Paris, wrote these movements as reflections on these seven phrases from scripture. Each movement introduces a new chorale theme, though often not until fairly late in the movement. More than memorable melodies, Tournemire has created powerful moments based on the moods and often mystical atmospheres suggested in the readings. It is our hope that you will use the time during these organ reflections to meditate on the scripture and words spoken just before each movement is played.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows,

People: **yet we considered him stricken by God,
smitten by him, and afflicted.**

Leader: But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;

People: **the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,
and by his wounds we are healed.**

Leader: All we, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to his own way;

People: **and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

- Isaiah 53:4-6



THE FIRST WORD

“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” (Luke 23:34)

SCRIPTURE READING: *Luke 23:24-25, 32-34*

REFLECTION

PRAYER ON THE FIRST WORD FROM THE CROSS

Almighty God, to whom your crucified Son prayed for the forgiveness of those who did not know what they were doing, grant that we, too, may be included in that prayer. Whether we sin out of ignorance or intention, be merciful to us and grant us your acceptance and peace: in the name of Jesus Christ, our suffering Savior. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION



THE SECOND WORD

“Today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)

SCRIPTURE READING: *Luke 23:39-43*

REFLECTION

PRAYER ON THE SECOND WORD FROM THE CROSS

O Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to the repentant the joy of paradise, enable us by the Holy Spirit to repent and to receive your grace in this world and in the world to come. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION



THE THIRD WORD

“Dear woman, here is your son.” “Here is your mother.” (John 19:26-27)

SCRIPTURE READING: *John 19:26-27*

REFLECTION

PRAYER ON THE THIRD WORD FROM THE CROSS

O Blessed Savior, who in your hours of greatest suffering expressed compassion for your mother and made arrangements for her care, grant that we who seek to follow your example may show our concern for the needs of others, reaching out to provide for those who suffer in our human family. Hear this our prayer for your mercy's sake. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION



THE FOURTH WORD

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)

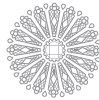
SCRIPTURE READING: *Matthew 27:45-49*

REFLECTION

PRAYER ON THE FOURTH WORD FROM THE CROSS

Almighty God, who forsook your Son upon the cross showing the world your judgment upon human sin and guilt, grant us, upon hearing his cry, the grace to know and believe that we will never be forsaken, that he is present with us even to the end of the age: for the sake of Jesus Christ who bore our sins on the cross. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION



THE FIFTH WORD

“I am thirsty.” (John 19:28)

SCRIPTURE READING: *John 19:28-29*

REFLECTION

PRAYER ON THE FIFTH WORD FROM THE CROSS

O blessed Savior, whose lips were dry and whose throat was parched, grant us the water of life that we who thirst after righteousness may find it quenched by your love and mercy, leading us to bring this same relief to others. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION



THE SIXTH WORD

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

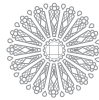
SCRIPTURE READING: *Luke 23:44-49*

REFLECTION

PRAYER ON THE SIXTH WORD FROM THE CROSS

Father, into whose hands your Son Jesus Christ commended his spirit, grant that we too, following his example, may in all of life and at the moment of our death entrust our lives into your faithful hands of love. In the name of Jesus who gave his life for us all. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION



THE SEVENTH WORD

“It is finished.” (John 19:30)

SCRIPTURE READING: *John 19:30-35*

REFLECTION

PRAYER ON THE SEVENTH WORD FROM THE CROSS

O Lord Jesus Christ, who finished the work that you were sent to do, enable us by your Holy Spirit to be faithful to our call. Grant us strength to bear our crosses and endure our sufferings, even unto death. Enable us to live and love so faithfully that we also become good news to the world, joining your witness. O Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Depart in silence



LEADING IN WORSHIP TONIGHT

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist

HOLY WEEK 2021 CONTINUES



*Easter Vigil: Saturday, April 3
and Sunday, April 4*

- 2:30-4:30 pm and 6:30-8:30 pm Saturday, and 8-10 am Sunday. Walk through eight stations in the Sanctuary and outside the church, with readings, activities, meditation, art and communion. The flower cross will be the final station. Reservations required, with masking and social distancing. Only 20 people in the Sanctuary at a time; safety guidelines in place. [Sign up online here](#). An online version will also be available. [Read more about the vigil on the Lenten blog](#).

Easter Sunday, April 4

- Sunrise services: Brief, outdoor services in the Giving Back Garden (corner of Fisher Avenue & Greene Street), one at 7 am and one at 7:30 am. *All reservations are taken at this time.*
- Easter Vigil: 8-10 am. Walk through eight stations in the Sanctuary. Reservations required, with masking and social distancing. Only 20 people in the Sanctuary at a time; safety guidelines in place. [Sign up online here](#).
- Worship on video: Link will be up Saturday evening, congregation is encouraged to watch 10:30 am Sunday. Jill Duffield preaching.
- Bring a flower for the cross: observe social distancing, and be sure to wear a mask.
- After worship, check your email and social media for a special Easter message.