

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON EDISTO ISLAND

March 25, 2020

Lenten Service

4:00 PM

Reflections of Those Whose Lives Were Transformed by the Death of Jesus

Prelude

Deep Were His Wounds

Marlee

Call to Worship+

Leader: When the world could wait no longer,

Women: the carpenters took up their tools;

Men: God's son was made a cross

Women: fashioned from wood and skill of human hands,

Men: fashioned from hate and will of human minds.

Leader: He was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;

All: For us he grieved.

Leader: He was summoned to the judgement hall; an enemy of the state, a danger to religion.

All: For us he was judged.

Leader: He was lashed with tongues and scourged with throngs,

All: By his wounds, we are healed.

Leader: He was nailed to the cross by human hands,

All: Bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh.

Hymn

Ah, Holy Jesus

Herzliebster Jesu

*Ah, holy Jesus, how have You offended,
That mortal judgement has on You descended?
By foes derided, by Your own rejected, O most afflicted!*

*Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon You?
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone You.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied You; I crucified You.*

*For me, dear Jesus, was Your incarnation,
Your mortal sorrow, and Your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish and Your bitter passion, For my salvation.*

*Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay You,
I do adore You, and will ever praise You,
Think on Your pity and Your love unswerving, Not my deserving.*

Call to Confession

Comfortable with the way things are, we lose sight of the way God intends them to be. We bring our confession to the One who is more powerful than high priests and governors and mightier than the devil.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God of Grace, you call us to be different from the world,

All: but the world is seductive, and so we come here to be strengthened.

Leader: God of Vision, you hold before us an alternate way of life,

All: different priorities, different loyalties, different values.

Leader: But we know that the world is not only seductive but powerful,
All: and so we are drawn into following its priorities, accepting its values, showing loyalty to its gods.
Leader: God who blesses the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful,
All: forgive us when we lose sight of these qualities, when we misunderstand our role in the world...
(pause for silent confession)

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Rejoice and be glad! God is gracious and God offers blessings. God calls us to life in the world. God offers us the chance to explore how to live out God's vision. We are called, we are forgiven, we are blessed.
All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sung Response

We Are Forgiven

We Are Forgiven

***We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.
We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.***

Prayer for Illumination

God of our salvation, when we were kept down by sin, you raised us up with Christ. Show us the immeasurable riches of your grace that we may show the world the healing powers of the cross. Through Christ our King. Amen.

Scripture

John 18:28-40

28 Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, 'What accusation do you bring against this man?' ³⁰They answered, 'If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.' ³¹Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.' The Jews replied, 'We are not permitted to put anyone to death.' ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, 'Are you the King of the Jews?' ³⁴Jesus answered, 'Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?' ³⁵Pilate replied, 'I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?' ³⁶Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.' ³⁷Pilate asked him, 'So you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.' ³⁸Pilate asked him, 'What is truth?'

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, 'I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?' ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, 'Not this man, but Barabbas!' Now Barabbas was a bandit.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Pilate the Punisher

Musical & Spiritual Offering

Whiter Than Snow

Fischer

During this time of reflection, consider the ways you have justified your sin against God or even allowed others to accept your responsibility. As you offer those times to Jesus, imagine a bowl with its water washing you clean.

Prayer of the Day

God of life, God of beginnings and endings, today we pause to remember the power of death. Today we tell the story of what happens when someone angers those in power. Today we tell a story of betrayal by a friend, trial by empire, execution as a way of silencing the one who names injustice. Today we tell a story that happened long ago in a land far away. Today we tell a story that continues to happen today in places close at hand. As we look at the cross, remind us of the power of empire in any age, and remind us of our duty as people of faith to proclaim a different truth, a different kingdom, a new way of living together. And now, as we prepare to leave this gathering, may we do so ready to challenge the empires of our world, even if such a challenge leads us to a cross outside the city gates. Help us remember that every ending is a new beginning, even if in the depths of The End we have no way of seeing what that new beginning might be. We pray in the name of the one who showed us the depth of his passion for Your Kingdom,

Amen.

Benediction

Worship Leaders today include:

Marc and Karen Coker, Rev. Alan George, Sheri Melton, Rev. Ashley Sanders,
and Videographer Ann Atchley

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