

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ON EDISTO ISLAND

April 1, 2020

Lenten Service

4:00 PM

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

Prelude

The Crucifixion

Samuel Barber

*At the cry of the first bird, they began to crucify Thee, O Swan!
Never shall lament cease because of that. It was like the parting of day from night.
Ah, sore was the suffering borne, By the body of Mary's Son,
But sorer still to Him was the grief, Which for His sake, Came upon His Mother.*

Call to Worship+

Leader: Where Christ walks,
All: we will follow.
Leader: Where Christ stumbles,
All: we will stop.
Leader: Where Christ cried,
All: we will listen.
Leader: Where Christ suffers,
All: we will hurt.
Leader: Where Christ dies,
All: we will bow our heads in sorrow.
Leader: When Christ rises again in glory,
All: we will share his endless joy.
Leader: There is no other way;
All: He is the only way.

Hymn

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Hamburg

*When I survey the wondrous cross, On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*

*See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Call to Confession

We come before our God, who is full of compassion, to ask forgiveness and mercy:

Prayer of Confession+

**Savior of the World, what have you done to deserve this? And what have we done to deserve you?
Strung up between two criminals, cursed and spat upon, you wait for death, and look for us, for us
whose sin has crucified you. To the mystery of undeserved suffering, you bring the deeper
mystery of unmerited love. Forgive us for not knowing what we have done; open our eyes to what
we are doing now, as, through wood and nails, you disempower our depravity and transform us by
your grace. (pause for silent confession)**

Declaration of Forgiveness

God has promised to forgive our iniquity and remember our sin no more. Let us set our minds on the Spirit and give praise to the One who raised Jesus from the dead. In the work of Christ on the cross, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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

Pour out your Spirit upon us, O Lord, that we may bear what is to come, believe where there seems to be no hope, and wait with you. Make us alive to your Word and confident of your promises. Amen.

Scripture

John 19:25b-27

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

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection++

Mary the Mother

Musical & Spiritual Offering

Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone

Maitland

During this time of reflection, consider the cross' meaning for you. As you sense your own call, in what ways do you show courage to follow Jesus, even if it leads to the cross? As we receive Christ's gift from the cross, what spiritual gift can you offer in return?

Prayer of the Day

Standing near the cross we dare look up and see the suffering of our Lord. We dare gaze upon One with love so deep he would undergo great hardship and death. We dare comfort Mary and those mourning there and Lord we are humbled, humbled beyond measure. For the grace you offer us, even in these final days of Lent, we give you thanks. Help us to hold tight, and never let go of your gaze nor your grace. Be with us as we continue to journey with you, making us stronger with each step, that we may be better tellers of your story and givers of your love. To the One lifted up we pray.

Amen.

Benediction

Worship Leaders Include:

Lisa Barnes, Sheri Melton, Rev. Ashley Sanders, and Videographer Ann Atchley

+Prayers used with permission from "Stages on the Way" Resources for Lent – Iona Community, GIA Publications.

++Reading adapted from "At the Cross with Jesus" by Carol B. Rife and Harold D. Shaffer

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