



the good news is...

revealed through nonviolence

April 3, 2026 – 7pm

Good Friday

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

“There is a Fountain with Were You There?” arr. Rouse

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In the beginning, darkness covered the face of the deep. Then God said,

People: “Let there be light.”

Leader: And there was light. And every day since, the light has come and gone.

People: The sun has risen and set.

Leader: The moon has waxed and waned.

People: The light is still with us.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, which brought all things into being. What has come into being through him is life,

People: the light of all people.

Leader: The light shined in the darkness,

People: and the darkness did not overtake it.

Leader: When God made the light, when the light of all people came into the world, God did not send away the dark.

People: The darkness remains.

Leader: God created the night for dreams and clarity,

People: an exhaling of the light.

Leader: Let us enter this holy darkness to bear witness to the light of the world who was extinguished by violence.

People: Let us worship our Incarnate God.

*Please rise in body or spirit

*HYMN #220

“Go to Dark Gethsemane” (1-3)

The composer intended this tune for “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” (no. 438), but its solemn tone and small range make it an effective setting for this series of somber vignettes portraying what Christians can learn from Christ: to pray, to bear the cross, and to die.

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
all who feel the tempter’s power;
your Redeemer’s conflict see;
watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away;
learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

2 Follow to the judgment hall;
view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall!
O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
learn from him to bear the cross.

3 Calvary’s mournful mountain climb;
there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time,
God’s own sacrifice complete;
“It is finished!” hear him cry;
learn from Jesus Christ to die.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we can easily see ourselves in any number of the people surrounding Jesus in his final days.

We are Judas, betraying what we hold most dear for status, wealth, and security. We are the soldiers, using our power to maintain the status quo which serves us. We are the disciples, brandishing our weapons to fight violence with violence, and we are the high priest's servant, victims of a world hell-bent on winning.

Prince of Peace, forgive us.

We are Herod, finding our entertainment at the expense of other people's dignity.

We are Pilate, excusing ourselves from the blame that is rightfully ours. We are the crowd, foaming at the mouth and demanding blood, and we are Barabbas, our lives spared while others are crucified.

Prince of Peace, forgive us.

Forgive us, we pray, for the parts we have played. Set us free from the sin that chokes the world, threatening to extinguish all that is good and beautiful. Break the cycles of violence, step into the machinery of a world fueled by division and disrupt us.

Forgive us, Prince of Peace. Kyrie eleison. Have mercy on us. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

VISIO DIVINA

*HYMN #209

"My Song is Love Unknown"

1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
O who am I
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh, and die?

4 Unheeding, we will have
our dear Lord made away,
a murderer to save,
the prince of life to slay.
Yet steadfast he
to suffering goes,
that he his foes
from thence might free.

2 He came from heaven's throne
salvation to bestow;
the world that was his own
would not its Savior know.
But O my Friend,
my Friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!

5 Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine:
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine.
This is my Friend,
in whose sweet praise
I all my days
could gladly spend.

3 Sometimes we strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to our King.
Then "Crucify!"
is all our breath,
and for his death
we thirst and cry.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE ARREST

Luke 22:47-53 (NRSVUE)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Blessed Redeemer" arr. David T. Clydesdale

THE SENTENCING

Luke 23:13-25 (NRSBUE)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Alas and Did My Savior Bleed" arr. Dan Forrest

THE CRUCIFIXION

Luke 23:33-38 (NRSVUE)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The Crucifixion" by Barber

DEATH

Luke 23:44-46 (NRSVUE)

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Can We Sing the Darkness to Light" by Kyle Pederson

What if instead of more violence,
we let our weapons fall silent?
No more revenge or retribution;
It could be beautiful.

What if instead of our judgment,
we soften our hearts that have hardened?
Instead of certainty and pride
we love and sacrifice.
It could be beautiful.

Can we see the other as our brother?
Can we sing the darkness to light
sounding chords of compassion and grace?
Set the swords of judgment aside,
let mercy's eyes see the other human face.

-Kyle Pederson

THE AFTERMATH

Luke 23:47-49 (NRSVUE)

*HYMN #221

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.

1 O sacred head, now wounded,
with grief and shame weighed down;
now scornfully surrounded
with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory,
what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

3 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
outlive my love to thee.

2 What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
was all for sinners' 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,
and grant to me thy grace.

POSTLUDE

“Song of the Birds” by Pablo Casals

Liturgy from this service is by Rev. Anna Strickland | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Assisting in Worship Today:

Makoto Winkler – Vocalist

Maalik Glover – Violin

Pei-An Chao – Cello

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music & Technology

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor



“Revealed through Nonviolence”

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Luke 22:47-53;

Luke 23:33-38, 44-46

The Story Continues ...

JOIN US APRIL 5 10AM



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