

The Chapel in the Pines

April 7, 2023

A Service of Scripture and Songs Based on the Gospel of Matthew



**Please enter in silence
and while you are seated meditate on these words:**

*Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane,
and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray."*

*He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee
and began to be grieved and agitated.*

*Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death;
remain here, and stay awake with me."*

And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed,

*"My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me,
yet not what I want but what you want."*

Matthew 26:36-39

Pastor Paul James
Rebekah Lee Ritter — Instrumentalist
Mimi Giannini — Organist/Pianist

The Prelude

*A Psalm of Thanksgiving and Praise

Adapted from Psalm 22

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

**Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.
In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.
To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**

All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads'
"Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

**Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.
On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.**

I am poured out like water, my mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.
They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.
But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

**I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.
Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord,
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,
saying that he has done it.**



***Hymn**

#183 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?

Refrain:

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light
And the burden of my heart rolled away -
It was there by faith I received my sight,
And now I am happy all the day!

2 Was it for crimes that I have done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree! **[Refrain]**

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut His glories in,
When Christ, the mighty Maker, died
For man the creature's sin. **[Refrain]**

4 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away -
'Tis all that I can do! **[Refrain]**

Matthew 27:1-2, 11-14

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death.

Selah

Matthew 27:15-18, 21-23, 26

*So he released Barabbas for them,
and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.*

Selah

Matthew 27:27-31

*They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,
and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on his head.*



Selah

Matthew 27:32-44

If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.

The Chiming of the Hour

Matthew 27:45-54

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two...

The earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened...

***Hymn** #181 Were You There? (Verses 1, 2, and 3 only)

- 1** Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
- 2** Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
- 3** Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

The Final Lenten Service of Diminishing Light

***A Prayer for Good Friday**



***Hymn**

#185 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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?
- 4 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.

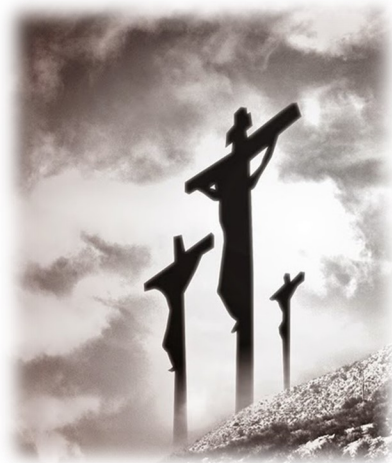
***The Stripping of the Church**

Our Good Friday service traditionally includes the ritual of Stripping the Church. The removal of all liturgical items is symbolic of the suffering and death of Jesus. As his life was stripped from him, we strip the church of all the signs of life to symbolize his redemptive death on the cross for all humankind.

***Matthew 27: 57-60**

He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away...

As the light of Christ which is never extinguished leaves the sanctuary to go out into the world, would you please exit in silence.



Prayer for Good Friday

O Jesus, on this day we remember your death, the day your light went out from this earth. We sit in the darkness today, remembering the trials you faced on our behalf. You have borne our sin and made the ultimate sacrifice to save us. Today, as we recall your final hours, we consider a world without you and hold onto the hope we know we have in you. Lord, commit my heart ever closer to you, because I don't want to live in a Good Friday world without you. I want you and your light in my life. I believe in you and want to follow you all the days of my life, even knowing the road ahead will be difficult. Come, Lord Jesus, come and fill this world with your light. Amen.

