

J. J. White Memorial Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

McComb, Mississippi

April 2, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Good Friday

**Congregation please stand if able.*

A Thought Before Worship

From this day forward we know that there is nowhere we can go where God is not with us. So, today, of all days, we are bold to commend ourselves into God's care.

WE GATHER

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"Darkest Hour"

Raney

incorporating "Passion Chorale" and "Were You

There?"

*Call to Worship

Especially today, God forbid that we should boast of anything

But the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

In him is our salvation, life, and resurrection from the dead.

By him we are redeemed and set free.

May God be gracious to us and bless us.

And make his face to shine upon us.

Let us worship God!

*Prayer for the Day

We gather in the shadow of the cross, O God, disturbed, distraught, discouraged. Yet we gather here as your disciple, those whom Jesus loves. On this day of great solemnity, let us stand as witnesses to your great love for us and for all the world, love revealed in the outstretched arms of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived and died and lives again with you forevermore. Amen.

A Call to Confession

In Jesus Christ, we have an advocate who knows our every weakness. He has been tested in every way as we are, yet his faithfulness never failed. Therefore, we are bold to approach God's throne of grace, trusting God's mercy as we honestly confess our sin.

A Prayer of Confession

On this Friday we dare to call Good, O God, we relive the story of your great Passion, your love bleeding on a cross. Forgive us, O Christ, if we are on the wrong side of this crucifixion story. Forgive us, O Christ, if we are prideful enough to think that we would not have abandoned you. Forgive us O Christ for the ways we have shouted “Crucify him!” with our actions or failures to acts, if not with our words. Forgive us for not hearing the prayers of desperation from people condemned, from people who are isolated, from people who carry the scars of violence and pain in their bodies. Forgive us, O Lord, and let us not forget that our neighbors’ wounds are our wounds, their pain is our pain. Hear our prayer, Good Lord.

(A time for silent confession)

Words of Assurance of God’s Forgiveness

Let us now live in the full assurance of our faith, with our hearts cleansed of all evil and our bodies washed with living water. This is the Good News of Good Friday: In Jesus Christ, our sin is forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

Now may the matchless peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

A Piano Interlude

“Hallelujah, What a Savior!”

Sprunger

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

A Prayer for God’s Guidance as We Hear God’s Word

A Reading from the Prophets

Isaiah 52:13—53:12

See, my servant will prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals—so shall he startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet

we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

A Prayer of Solemn Intercession

A Reading from the Psalter: 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? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. 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. But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. 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. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled. I can count all my bones. 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! Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. To him, indeed shall all who sleep in the earth bow down, before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for 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.

A Reading from the Gospel: John 18:3-8, 19-24; 19:1-3, 16-19, 25b-42

So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again, he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he." So if you are looking for me, let these men go...Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest...Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face...Then Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrews is called Golgotha. There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews..." Meanwhile, standing near the

cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pieced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "they will look on the one whom they have pierced." After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in that garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Sermon

His Death and Ours

The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross

O my people, O my Church, what have I done to you; in what way have I offended you? Answer me! I led you through the water from the land of Egypt and delivered you by the waters of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy!

I led you through the desert and fed you with manna. I brought you through tribulation and trial and gave you my own body, the Bread of Heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy!

What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard. I made you the branches of my vine. But when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior. And you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy!

I went before you in a pillar of cloud, and you lead me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and brought you to a land of freedom, but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me. I gave you the pure water of salvation from a rock, but you have given me gall to drink and left me to thirst. And you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy!

I gave you the keys to the kingdom, but you have given me a crown of thorns. I raised you on high with great power, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy!

I gave you my peace, which the world cannot give, and I washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword and strike in my name and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and blood, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy!

I sent my Spirit of Truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy!

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters. I was hungry, and you gave me no food, thirsty, and you gave me no drink. I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me, naked, and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison, and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy, Immortal One, have mercy on us. Amen.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

Behold the Cross

Behold the cross, on which was hung the salvation of the whole world!

Lord, have mercy on us.

Behold the cross, on which was hung the salvation of the whole world!

Christ, have mercy on us.

Behold the cross, on which was hung the salvation of the whole world!

Lord, grant us peace.

Charge A Reading from the Epistles Hebrews 10:16-25

“This is the covenant I will make with them”, says the Lord; “I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.” He also adds, “I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more. Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful.

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Closing Words

Now we know: All is grace. All is gift. God gives us all good things: Life and love, daily bread, friends, and faith. Most of all, God’s Son, Jesus, who meets us with a love that will never let us go. So let us give God thanks and praise for the mystery of suffering love that gives us life. Let us give God thanks and praise for knowing our weakness and for hearing our prayers. Most of all, let us give God thanks and praise that all of our living and dying is help in God’s good keeping. Now we know: All is grace. Thanks be to God. Go in peace.

Postlude “He Never Said a Mumblin’ Word” Lantz III

Easter Worship at J. J. White

Sunrise Worship on the lawn next door at 6:45 am.
(No breakfast this year)

10:30 am Easter Worship in the Sanctuary
(This service will be broadcast on Facebook Live. Sunrise will not.)

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Communion on Sunday, April 11.

