



Independent
Presbyterian
Church

Birmingham, Alabama

April 18, 2025

12:00 p.m.

Good Friday

A PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Preparation for Worship

We meet to remember the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to meditate on the mystery and power of his suffering for the sins of the world. Let us pray that we may understand what it means that he died for us; and also that we may receive his Spirit to carry the Cross with him in the world today.

CALL TO WORSHIP..... Rev. Seamon

Minister: Christ Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

People: Blessed is the name of the Lord.

* HYMN 221PASSION CHORALE
“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

PRAYER..... Rev. Newton

**Unison: Almighty God, look with mercy on your family, for whom
 our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and to
 be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death
 on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the
 Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Word

FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 (Pew Bible, p. OT520)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:1-15 Anglican Chant, Edward John Hopkins

SECOND LESSON - Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-10 (Pew Bible, p. NT173).....

Rev. Clayton

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON Rev. Seamon

John 18:1-27 (Pew Bible, p. NT86)

Hymn 224 ROCKINGHAM

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (*Stanzas 1-2*)

John 18:28-19:16a

Hymn 223 HAMBURG

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” (*Stanzas 3-4*)

John 19:16b-30

*Congregation stands on cue and remains standing through the end of the
Gospel Lesson.*

* Anthem..... H. WALFORD DAVIES

“God be in my head”

* John 19:31-42

At the end of this reading, there will be a period of silence.

SOLEMN INTERCESSION Rev. Clayton

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OUR FATHER, who art in heaven; Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done; On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts; As we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

Minister: Behold the cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

People: Come, let us worship.

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SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

Anthem.....DAN SCHUTTE

“O My People”

Following each Reproach the congregation shall respond:



CHIMES

At the sound of the chimes, we reflect on Christ's thirty-three years on earth. Truly, he was a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

SOLO.....SPIRITUAL

"Were You There?"

Beth Middleton, *Soprano*

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

All depart in silence following this service.

***CONGREGATION STANDING**

GOOD FRIDAY

During Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ's Passion, his death, and resurrection. Beginning with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, all of Holy Week focuses on the Passion. As his followers, we travel Christ's path of servanthood through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The Good Friday service is a penitential service, yet it is also a celebration of the good news of the cross. The service reflects a commonality with many strands of Christian tradition. Good Friday is a day for many contemplative moments so let the power of silence speak for itself.

The Passion narrative according to John is read on Good Friday because at the heart of John's Passion narrative is the good news of the cross—the victory of the cross. Thus, John's emphasis on crucifixion and glory corresponds to the tension and ambiguity of the day. This Gospel lesson will be presented as a choral reading: read in parts, alternating with hymns. It is customary for the congregation to stand after John 19:17 and remain standing through the remainder of the reading.

Easter Sunday

Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday, April 20

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

5:00 p.m. in Highland Hall

No Sunday School. Childcare available at the morning services.

Participants in Today's Service

The Rev. Susan A. Clayton, Associate Pastor, Congreg. Care & Adult Ed.

The Rev. D. Nicole Newton, Associate Pastor, Discipleship

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Mission & Outreach

Dr. Jeff R. McLelland, Director of Music and Fine Arts

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Independent Presbyterian Church

3100 Highland Avenue

Birmingham, Alabama 35205-1408

Phone: (205)933-1830; Fax: (205)933-1836

www.ipc-usa.org

This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)