

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.



Independent Presbyterian Church

Birmingham, Alabama

March 29, 2024

12 pm

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 31

8:00 am, 9:30 am, and 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

11:00 am in Highland Hall

Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

No Sunday School. Childcare available.

Participants in Today's Service

The Rev. Kevin J. Long, Pastor

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

The Rev. David J. Seamon, Associate Pastor, Faith Formation

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

The Independent Presbyterian Church Choir

Independent Presbyterian Church

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This congregation is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (USA)

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. Long

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 221 - "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"PASSION CHORALE

PRAYER.....Rev. Clayton

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

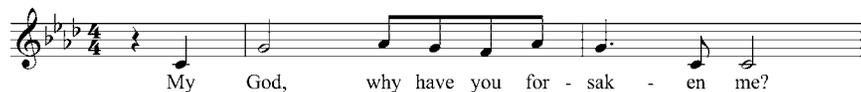
Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:1-2, 7-8, 14-22.....Hal Hopson

Beth Middleton, *Cantor*

Congregation sings refrain on cue from cantor:



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SECOND LESSON - Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-10..... Rev. Seamon

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON..... Rev. Long

John 18:1-27

Hymn 211 - "Hear, O Lord, My Plea for Justice" CHARLESTOWN

John 18:28-19:16a

Hymn 218 - "Ah Holy Jesus" HERZLIEBSTER JESU

(Stanzas 1 -3)

John 19:16b-30

Congregation stands on cue and remains standing through the end of the Gospel Lesson. At the end of this reading, there will be a period of silence.

*Hymn 223 - "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"HAMBURG

John 19:31-42

SOLEMN INTERCESSIONRev. Seamon

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PROCESSION OF THE CROSS

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

People: Come, let us worship.

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

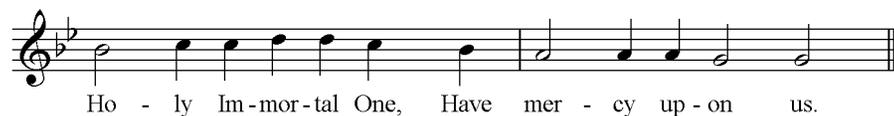
People: Come, let us worship.

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

People: Come, let us worship.

SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS Rev. Clayton

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 - "Were You There?"SPIRITUAL

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*