

# The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

April 3, 2026 at 12 & 7 p.m.

*Welcome to Christ Church.*

*This faith community has worshiped on the Guilford Green since 1744; and it is continually made new by the Spirit and those who gather here. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your spiritual journey, it's an honor to worship with you. Your presence is a blessing.*

*May this gathering be a blessing to you.*



*On this day the ministers enter in silence. All then kneel for a time of silent prayer.*

## **The Collect of the Day**

*Presider:* Blessed be our God.

*People:* **For ever and ever. Amen**

*Presider:* Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

*The people sit.*

See, my servant shall 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 he shall 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 he 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.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22** *Deus, Deus meus*

*Psalm 22 is found on page 610 of the red Book of Common Prayer.*

## **Second Reading**

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Passion Gospel**

John 18:1-19:42

*The congregation remains seated, while the Passion Gospel is read in parts.*

### **The Homily**

The Rev. Michael Sweeney

**Hymn #168** O sacred head, sore wounded

*Passion Chorale*

*Sung by all, seated.*

### **The Solemn Collects**

*Leader:* Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

*The people kneel as able.*

*Leader:* Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world, for its unity in witness and service, that God will confirm the Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider:* Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, for those in authority among them, and for all who serve the common good, that by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider:* Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for the Jewish people, who by the grace of their eternal covenant with God were delivered from bondage into freedom;  
for their continued faithfulness;  
for their flourishing in peace as witnesses to God's sustaining love;  
for their liberation from all forms of antisemitism and hatred;  
that unity and concord may exist between Jews and Christians,  
in obedience to God's will.

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider:* O God of Abraham, you planted your people Israel as the root and grafted all peoples as wild branches into a single olive tree of praise to you:  
As we come near to the cross, we lament Christian acts of prejudice and violence against your faithful people, of whom Jesus Christ was born.  
Bless the children of your covenant, so that together we may attain the fullness of your blessing for the world. **Amen.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;  
for those who are hungry or homeless, destitute or oppressed;  
for those who are lonely, fearful, or anguished;  
for those who face temptation, doubt, or despair;  
for those who are sick, sorrowful, or bereaved;  
that God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them,  
grant them the knowledge of his love,  
and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider:* Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer:  
Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your  
mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the  
strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Leader:* Let us pray for those who have not embraced God's redemptive love;  
for those who have never heard the word of salvation;  
for those who have lost their faith;  
for those hardened by sin and indifference;  
for those who persecute the followers of Christ,  
and for those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others;  
that God will open their hearts to truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

*Silence is kept.*

*Presider:* Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls:  
Have compassion on all who do not know you; let the Good News of your  
salvation be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it;  
turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who  
have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ  
our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Presider continues:*

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who  
have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is  
known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of  
our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

*Silence is kept.*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light:  
Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery;  
by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation;  
let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up,  
and things which had grown old are being made new,  
and that all things are being brought to their perfection  
by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Veneration of the Cross**

*In silence, a wooden cross is brought into the church and placed in the sight of the people, who remain kneeling as able.*

**Solo** The Crucifixion

S. Barber

Leila Mustakos, soprano

## **Anthem**

*Presider:* We glory in your cross, O Lord,

*People:* **and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;  
for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.**

*Presider:* May God be merciful to us and bless us,  
show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

*People:* **Let your ways be known upon earth,  
your saving health among all nations.**

*Presider:* Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

*People:* **We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection;  
for by virtue of your cross joy has come to the whole world.**

## **Silent Prayer**

*A time of silent prayer follows the anthem. The people may remain kneeling or come forward to express their devotion by reverencing the cross, touching the cross, and/or by standing or kneeling at the foot of the cross.*

**Hymn #172** Were you there

*Were You There*

*The people return to their pews and sing the hymn, kneeling or seated.*

## **Confession of Sin**

*Presider:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The people kneel as able. Silence is observed before the Presider begins the Confession.*

*All:*       **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Presider declares the Absolution.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Presider:*   And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

<b>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 trespasses,</b>	<b>as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.</b>
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### **Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament**

*All are welcome to receive Communion or a blessing. To receive a blessing, simply cross your arms against your chest. To receive the bread, place your hands together, palms up. If you wish to receive the wine, you may "intinct" (touch the edge of your bread to the wine) in the first chalice, or you may sip from the second chalice. Individually wrapped gluten-free wafers are available on request. If having communion brought to your pew would be a help, please just let an usher know.*

## **Closing Prayer**

*The people kneel as able.*

*Presider:* Let us pray.

*All:* **Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,  
we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death  
between your judgment and our souls,  
now and in the hour of our death.  
Give mercy and grace to the living;  
pardon and rest to the dead;  
to your holy Church peace and concord;  
and to us sinners everlasting life and glory;  
for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Please depart in silence.*

## **SERVING AT 12 P.M.**

<i>Presider:</i>	The Rev. Cathi Bencken
<i>Preacher:</i>	The Rev. Michael Sweeney
<i>Music Director:</i>	Mark Sullivan
<i>Usher:</i>	Sandi Linton
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</i>	Laura Raymond
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</i>	Ed Seibert
<i>Prayers:</i>	Tyler Regnier
<i>Chalice Bearer:</i>	Chris Robinson

## **SERVING AT 7 P.M.**

<i>Presider:</i>	The Rev. Dr. Drew Collins
<i>Assisting Priest:</i>	The Rev. Cathi Bencken
<i>Preacher:</i>	The Rev. Michael Sweeney
<i>Music Director:</i>	Mark Sullivan
<i>Usher:</i>	Chris Klots
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Reading:</i>	Jennifer Huebner
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:</i>	Page Pelphrey
<i>Chalice Bearer:</i>	Diane Pierpont