



# GOOD FRIDAY

IT IS FINISHED.

JOHN 19:30

*April 15, 2022*



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# *First Presbyterian Church*

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## *Good Friday Service*

*April 15, 2022*

As people enter the sanctuary, they are handed 1 nail.

### **PRELUDE**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP/ INVITATION TO MOURN**

Tonight, we come to take part in Good Friday. This is the hardest, but the most important part of our journey to Easter Sunday. For, even though resurrection declares the hope that destruction, hatred, violence, and even death do not get the last word, we must still face them first. Why? Because fear has the most power in the places we try to avoid, and we only understand the dawn after facing the long dark night.

This service will hold scriptural accounts of Jesus' crucifixion side by side with 6 accounts of suffering still occurring today. As you entered the sanctuary you received a nail. It is meant as a symbol of our own brokenness as victims and perpetrators of sin along with our need for God's redemptive love offered through the cross.

You are invited to participate in worship by choosing one of the six stories, perhaps one that especially speaks to you, and during the Kyrie that follows, walk up to one of the containers at the front or back of the sanctuary and drop your nail into it. Let it hit hard with a loud clang, like a hammer driving it into a cross. This is meant as a sign of our offering up the sin and brokenness you are experiencing, so that it too may be crucified with Christ and transformed by the power of Resurrection still to come.

**Hymn #223.....“When I Survey ...”**

## **A LITANY FOR GOOD FRIDAY (Responsive)**

### **Litany Based on John 18:1-19:42**

When Jesus finished praying in the garden, he went to meet his future -- a certain death, a certain betrayal.

**All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"**

He was met by soldiers and false accusers.

**All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"**

Judas kissed away the meals and the miles they had shared together.

**All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"**

Peter tried to protect him from an inevitable and foretold end.

**All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"**

When he couldn't protect him, Peter's fear led him to deny him.

**All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"**

From hall to hall and heart to heart, they led him in the dark of night to broken justice and false witnesses.

**All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"**

Pilate questioned his statement: "I came to testify to the truth," I came to be on the side of truth.

**All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"**

What was Pilate to do since he saw the truth with his eyes, but did not have courage to free it?

**All around Jesus, people ask, "What is truth?"**

Crucify him still rings across time because truth unrecognized always goes punished.

**And still we're asking, "What is truth?"**

### **SCRIPTURE 1: Luke 22:39-54a**

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial." While he was

still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!" Then they seized [Jesus] and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

## **NAIL OF VIOLENCE**

### **"State College Man Shot As Police Try To Serve A Mental Health Warrant"**

*Adapted from Centre Daily Times  
March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

A State College police officer shot and killed a man identified the 29-year-old African American as Osaze Osagie Wednesday afternoon while attempting to serve a mental health warrant at Marvin Gardens Apartments on the 1000 block of Old Boalsburg Road. Osagie's father contacted police because he was worried about his son, "who he told police had been acting erratically for a couple of weeks and could possibly be off his medication." The father reportedly showed police text messages in which Osagie threatened to harm himself. When police went to Osagie's apartment, he allegedly confronted officers and ignored commands to drop a knife, WJAC reported. Osagie reportedly came after the officers at which point one shot and killed him.

The case follows a series of shootings in January in State College that left four people dead, including the gunman, who shot himself. "I stand before you with a heavy heart," Chief Gardner said during the press conference. "As you know, this community has been rocked in the past six weeks by incidents that are

unfathomable for this community. And for that, my heart goes out to all those victims.”

## Drop a nail into the container as the song begins

*The choir will sing each section, followed immediately by the congregation.*

John L. Bell



Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Chri - ste e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e lei - son.

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## The first candle is extinguished

### SCRIPTURE 2: LUKE 22:54B-65

Now Peter was following at a distance. When [those who had seized Jesus] had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, “This man also was with him.” But he denied it, saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, “You also are one of them.” But Peter said, “Man, I am not!” Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, “Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean.” But Peter said, “Man, I do not know what you are talking about!” At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly. Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him, “Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?” They kept heaping many other insults on him.

### NAIL OF BETRAYAL

#### *“The Covert Betrayal”*

By Tammy Strobel

*When I found out that they had cheated it hurt. It hurt like hell, but that wasn't the worst part. The thing that hurt the most came months earlier before I found anything to be mad at. I remember sitting at the table, quietly, eating, looking at my plate. My attempts at a conversation had gone nowhere and suddenly I was hit with this sense of betrayal that hurt even more than the act, “they don't care if I'm here or not”. This person I loved and trusted and given*

*myself to, they had disengaged, and it was unbearable.*

*Rooted in my inability to pinpoint it, harder to process than the logical pain of lies and affairs, disengagement tortures the soul by triggering shame, humiliation, and insecurity without a way to fight back. That betrayal of disengagement, it was a covert wounding that left no evidence of brokenness behind, just a dull and growing sense that I am alone, unworthy, and unloved.*

**Drop a nail into the container as the song begins.**

**Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**  
(Lord, have mercy). (Christ, have mercy). (Lord, have mercy)

**The second candle is extinguished**

**SCRIPTURE 3: Luke 22:66-23:7**

When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought [Jesus] to their council. They said, "If you are the Messiah, tell us." He replied, "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God." All of them asked, "Are you, then, the Son of God?" He said to them, "You say that I am." Then they said, "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!" Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time.

## THE NAIL OF REJECTION

### “Zachary”

*Adapted from The Guardian: Transgender  
Stories*

*July 10<sup>th</sup> 2016*

When they find out at work, I often lose my job. It's happened five times, most recently after the equality legislation had passed. One time, very early on, I was coming back from my support group at night when an officer stopped me at a roadblock. He asked if I was allowed to drive a company car like that and then called my work to tell them what I was doing. Each time I lost my job I would also have to move, start over again, be alone again. I had one job where, after they fired me, they wrote to every company I applied to and said, “Don't hire this person, they are trans”. I don't hide the fact that I'm a transsexual male now. But it is getting harder and harder to move on.”

**Drop a nail into the container as the song begins.**

**Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**  
(Lord, have mercy). (Christ, have mercy) (Lord, have mercy)

**The third candle is extinguished**

### **SCRIPTURE 4: Luke 23:8-12**

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then [Herod] put an elegant robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

## THE NAIL OF MOCKERY

### ***“5 Caught on video mocking/ beating homeless”***

Adapted from foxnews.com

March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019

Police are currently hunting for five men captured on video mocking and assaulting a homeless men sleeping on a New York City sidewalk. The homeless men — between the



ages 41 and 61 — were sleeping in front of a shop in the Borough Park neighborhood of Brooklyn when approached around 6:45 a.m. last Saturday, New York City [police](#) said. The group asked the homeless men for money and mocked them before punching, kicking, and throwing objects. The attackers took \$5 before fleeing the scene. Two homeless men were taken to the hospital and treated for their injuries. One of the men who initially refused medical attention was later hospitalized with severe head trauma. He was listed in critical condition as of Saturday. Though they are not a protected class under the law, assaults against people experiencing homelessness outnumber hate-crimes against all protected classes combined.

**Drop a nail into the container as the song begins.**

**Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison** (Lord, have mercy). (Christ, have mercy) (Lord, have mercy)

**The fourth candle is extinguished**

**SCRIPTURE 5: Luke 23:13-25**

Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him.” Then they all shouted out together, “Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!” (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again; but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him.” But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed. So, Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for

insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over to be crucified as they wished.

### **PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (Responsive)**

In the midst of your story Lord, we feel our own being spoken too. As you were torn by sin, we see it tear at those all around us. As the people cried out against you for Barabbas, we see many cry out for what eventually hurts them and others. For this reason, we draw even closer to you in hope of being a new kind of people in the midst of this. In the hope of loving what you love and being a part of the healing, you give, Lord, we choose not to avert our eyes from the darkness but instead we pray that...

#### **In the midst of a hurting people**

we would feel your hands of comfort.

#### **For creation groaning under the weight of greed . . .**

May all creatures come to care for all you have made.

#### **For those in positions of authority over others**

Grant them your wisdom and the courage to choose justice and mercy as you do.

#### **For those who are suffering in mind and body**

Comfort them like a mother soothes a hurting child and heal them as they rest in your everlasting love.

#### **For those who mourn great loss**

grant them resurrection hope and communion with the saints.

#### **For those who cannot trust you**

may your gospel of peace draw them home to grace.

#### **For those seeking a nameless hope**

Open their eyes to your presence, the peace that exists beyond understanding

Gather up all these prayers oh God and let us not fear the difficult reality behind them but embrace them, knowing that here too, we are in the midst of your will and the power of resurrection. Together we pray the prayer that you first taught us, saying:

**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; lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is**

**the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.**

The fifth candle is extinguished

**HYMN #228 ..... "Were You There"**

**SCRIPTURE 6: Luke 23:32-43**

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

**NAIL OF OPPRESSION**

**"Their Church Was Burning They Linked Arms  
And Prayed."**

Adapted from CNN.com / April 17 2019

Ronald Milburn smelled the smoke four miles away as he drove to Greater Union Baptist Church.

Members of the congregation had started to gather outside. Some cried. As Rev. Harry Richard watched his small church burn, one member suggested they do the only thing they could: pray. So, they formed a semi-circle on the side of the road and locked arms. "As I began to pray, I heard God say, 'pray for that individual or whomever did this,'" Richard said. Smoke billowed. Flames glowed in the church, beyond

its archway. Milburn felt helpless. The 54-year-old had called the church home since he was a teenager. It was where he, his daughter and sister had all said their wedding vows. "Your heart breaks", he said "watching what we call home going up in flames,"

Greater Union was among [three historically black churches](#) in rural St. Landry Parish, west of Baton Rouge, that police said were [intentionally torched](#) over a 10-day span. On Thursday Holden Matthews, a 21-year-old son of a local sheriff, was arrested in connection to all three arsons. Gov. Edwards called the blazes, "a reminder of a very dark past of intimidation, fear and oppression towards these communities". Prosecutors will be adding three more charges under Louisiana's hate crime law, confirming their belief that the attacks were racially motivated.

**Drop a nail into the container as the song begins**

**Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison, Kyrie Eleison**  
(Lord, have mercy). (Christ, have mercy) (Lord, have mercy)

**The sixth candle is extinguished & the lights are turned out.**

**SCRIPTURE: Luke 23:44-49**

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

**Song begins (Hold Your Head Up High by Darlingside)**

## **CHARGE**

Tonight, we sit with the Savior that has been killed.

Tonight, we are invited to hold the hopes that seem lost.

To honestly face our fears and tears because we know this story isn't over yet.

So, may you weep, and may you rage, and may we hold our heads up high.

Song of Meditation: Hold Your Head Up High  
by Darlinside

Drop a nail into the container as song lyrics begin.

*The (seventh) Christ candle is extinguished, and the room is dark while the song plays and Mike walks out.*

**As you exit the sanctuary, please remain silent.**