



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
Jackson, Mississippi

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 2, 6:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

The Second Day of April, Two Thousand Twenty-One
Six O'Clock

The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain — Senior Minister
The Reverend Mr. Wiley P. Lowry III — Minister of Pastoral Care

The Greetings

The Prelude — “When in the Hour of Utmost Need” J.S. Bach
Rae Shannon, Organ

The Call to Worship

The Hymn No. 264 — “Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross”

The Invocation

The Responsive Reading — Psalm 22:1-22 (*Trinity Hymnal*, page 790)

The Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of Pardon

The Confession of Faith — *The Heidelberg Catechism* Q. 37-39

The Question: What do you confess when you say that he suffered?

During all the time he lived on earth,
but especially at the end,
Christ bore in body and soul
the wrath of God against the sin
of the whole human race.
Thus, by his suffering,
as the only atoning sacrifice,
he has redeemed our body and soul
from everlasting damnation,
and obtained for us
the grace of God, righteousness, and eternal life.

The Question: Why did he suffer under Pontius Pilate as judge?

Though innocent, Christ was condemned
by an earthly judge,
and so he freed us
from the severe judgment of God
that was to fall on us.

The Question: Does it have a special meaning that Christ was crucified
and did not die in a different way?

Yes. Thereby I am assured that he took upon himself the curse which lay
on me, for a crucified one was cursed by God.

The Hymn No. 253 (Stzs. 1, 2, 3, and 5) — “There Is a Fountain”

The Prayer of Supplication

Abba Father, we come to you in a time of trial, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. The nation is suffering. The church is scattered. All our pride has been shattered and our boasting brought to nothing. We are sinking in deep mire, where there is no foothold. We have come into deep waters, and the flood sweeps over us. The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring.

Yet mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty, therefore we bless your name.

For from you comes our salvation; you only are our rock and our redemption. So now, when all other refuge fails us, and no one cares for our souls, we cry to you, O Lord; You are our refuge and our portion in the land of the living. Save us from the snare of the fowler, and from the deadly pestilence.

Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but today we will trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Cover us with your pinions and grant that we might find refuge under your wings. Your faithfulness is our shield.

We will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor destruction that wastes at noonday, because we have made the Lord our dwelling place and the Most High our refuge.

Because, in Jesus, we have a great high priest who is able to sympathize with us in our weaknesses, we draw near to your throne of grace with confidence. Grant that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in this, our time of need.

Though we are afflicted in every way, yet we are not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. Our times are in your hand, and by your mercies we are not consumed.

Because Jesus has died, and by his resurrection has triumphed over the grave, we will not fear death. And so, look on us in mercy. Heal our land. Revive your church, and hear our prayers;

As we give all glory and praise to you, our Father, through our Jesus Christ Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, Amen.

The Hymn No. 648 — “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

The Prayer of Illumination

The Reading of Holy Scripture — Luke 23:26-56

The Sermon — *Christ in the Crucible*: The Crucified Christ Dr. Strain

The Solo — “Were You There?”.....Southern Spiritual
Kim Porter, Soloist

The Benediction

EASTER MORNING SERVICES

8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:00 a.m.

*There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

EASTER EVENING SERVICE

6:00 p.m.

WELCOME

We welcome all to this service of worship. If you are a Christian visiting with us today, we greet you in the name of our common Lord. If you are not a believer, we greet you as a friend and trust that you will sense the warmth and genuineness of our reception. We invite everyone here to participate with our congregation as we sing, pray, and give attention to God's Word.

VISITORS

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are so glad you are here. You can text **fpcjwelcome** to 955-77 to learn more about how to get connected to the life of our church.