



SEVEN OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 10, 2020

Welcome! We pray that you will truly experience
God's love and grace as you worship!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Good Friday, the word "good" harkens back to Middle English in which the word denotes piety and holiness.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Tonight we remember the seven sayings of Jesus on Friday.

Luke 23:43 records the first word spoken on the cross. Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Jesus asked God to forgive.

Moment of silence to reflect on forgiveness in our lives. What are we forgiven and how do we need to forgive others? How has Christ shown forgiveness to us individually and corporately?

HYMN

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed (verses 1 and 4)

Hymn 212

**¹Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I!**

**⁴But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.**

The second word from the cross was spoken to one of the thieves who was hanging beside him. After the two thieves had a conversation, only one asked to be saved, according to Luke 23:43.

Then Jesus said, "Today, you will be with me in paradise."

Moment of Silence: What does it mean to be with Christ in paradise? What images come to mind? What fears are present? What would you say as you walk up to Jesus? Offer these things to our Lord God.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (verse 1)

Hymn 221

**¹O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.**

The third word from the cross was spoken to Jesus' mother and John, according to John 19:26-27. Jesus did not want his mother to see what was about to happen. Therefore, he asked John to take her home. It is significant that he did not ask his own brothers or any of the other disciples to take care of his mother. In the Bible, John is referred to as "the beloved disciple."

There is clearly a division here. The dying man made sure everyone else was taken care of before he turned his attention to himself.

Moment of Silence to reflect on ways we are called to turn towards others before turning to self.

HYMN

Were You There

Hymn 228

**¹Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)
O! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)**

²when they nailed him to the tree?

³when they pierced him in the side?

Even though the fourth word is found in both Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34, Jesus was reciting Psalm 22:1 when he said, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" He was merely repeating the question the psalmist had asked.

Moment of Silence: Offer to God the many ways our world cries these words. What ways do you struggle with this question of faith?

HYMN *Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me?* (verses 1 and 4) **Hymn 210**
Lord, why have you forsaken me, and why are you so far away
From my complaint and my distress poured out before you night and day?
Yet you, O Lord, have been my God and only hope since I was born
With trouble near me, none can help. My Savior, leave me not forlorn.

The fifth word was one that was about Jesus' humanity. It is the shortest of the seven sayings. According to John 19:28, he said, "I thirst." This showed that Jesus was fully human with physical needs.

Moment of Silence: What do you thirst for at this moment? What is the World thirsting for? Offer these to God in prayer.

HYMN *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (verses 1 and 3) **Hymn 182**
I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
Look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

The sixth word, found in John 19:30, is often thought to be the last word because Jesus said, "It is finished." The "it" is not the last of his words on the cross. Rather, the Son of God was saying his work on earth was finished.

Moment of Silence: in the church we conclude each worship with a sending. When we say "it is finished", it is a call to go into the world and continue sharing the word of the Lord. Reflect on how your ministry might be carried from this cross into the world.

HYMN *Ah, Holy Jesus* (verses 1 and 4) **Hymn 218**
Ah, holy Jesus, how has thou offended, that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!

For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation, thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation,
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

The seventh word is similar to the bedtime prayer mothers teach their children. Mary probably taught her son that simple bedtime prayer. Our bedtime prayer is, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I shall die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take." According to Luke 23:46, Jesus said it this way, "Father into your hands, I commend my spirit." Like a little child, Jesus went to sleep in his father's arms.

Moment of Silence: Pray over how you will commit your life to Christ anew this Resurrection Sunday.

HYMN *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* **Hymn 223**
¹When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

²**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.**

³**See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

⁴**Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life my all.**

CLOSING PRAYER

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Our worship will end abruptly as the meeting will be suspended until we rejoin Sunday morning, Resurrection Sunday, here on Zoom at 11:00. What a joyous celebration it will be!

Holy Saturday is a quiet day, the perfect Sabbath of Christ in which he descended into the limbo of Hell and delivered the Saints of the Old Testament.

Prayers for Holy Saturday

You are invited to spend this Saturday praying for God's world and the many needs as we wait on the resurrection. You are invited to end in the Lord's Prayer. Lord, Listen to your children praying.

The Medical Community:

For those researching a vaccine

For those providing care in the hospital

For those in the hospital on respirators due to the virus

For those suffering the effects of the virus at home and their families taking care of them

For those grieving the loss of loved ones from the virus.

The Leaders of our Communities:

For the leaders of the CDC

For those making decisions about prolonged social and physical distancing

For Federal Government Representatives

For President Trump and Vice-President Pence

For Governors, Mayors, City Commissioners

Economic Effects:

For those who are out of work due to shelter in place mandates

For those whose businesses are languishing due to the economic downturn

For those working from home while also caring for children

For those suffering economic loss in the form of lost wages, furloughed hours

For those unable to manufacture products due to closed country borders and Global Crisis

For those suffering from the effects of the virus without adequate medical care

For those without resources to afford adequate medical care

For those unable to shelter in place due to economic necessity

Spiritual Renewal:

For God to take captive all fear

For the Holy Spirit to invite obedience to protective measures

For the renewal of God's church across the world

For personal connections despite physical distance, especially with regard to matters of faith.

For the fullness present in the hearts and minds of those who are lonely and cut off from relationships due to physical distance

Personal Prayer Requests:

For our families and friends

For renewed relationships and spirits

For health, strength, and fortitude

For our church and God's future

Ongoing Prayer Request from Nueva Paz

We have been requested by the church of Nueva Paz in Cuba to join them in prayer each morning and to specifically pray for God's mercy during this time.