

APRIL 9, 2020
MAUNDY THURSDAY
ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"THE HAPPY MORNING IS OVER. THE NIGHT OF AGONY STILL TO COME."
- W. H. AUDEN

VOLUNTARY

Steven B. Blackmon

CALL TO WORSHIP

Michele Murphy

"I love the Lord, for he has heard my voice and my supplications. He has inclined his ear to me. Therefore I will call upon him as long as I live. The sorrows of death compassed me about, and the pains of hell got hold of me. I found trouble. And I found sorrow. Then called I upon the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I beseech you! Deliver me!' Gracious is the Lord. Our God is merciful. I was brought low, and the Lord God, he helped me." (*Psalms 116: 1-6*)

PRAYER

O Lord: If we listen closely we may hear echoes of loud Hosannas floating still upon the air, a clatter of money changers' tables being overturned in your House of Prayer, Jesus' commanding Lazarus to throw off death and come forth again among the living. So much can happen in the compass of a single week: Triumph, cleansing, the raising of the dead. And tonight, a supper among friends. Or so it seems. Even as plates are laid, prayers said, cups drained, even now, elsewhere knives are being sharpened, betrayal is in the air, death lies at the door. Let us go to dark Gethsemane; let us stand in Pilate's and Herod's vain presence; let us climb a rubbish heap beyond the city walls, and let us see how far God will take humanity and humanity will follow God, so that love may live among us. Amen.

A CONFESSIONAL READING

"When evening came, Jesus arrived with the twelve. While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, 'I tell you truly, one of you will betray me — one who is here eating with me. They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, 'Surely, not I.' 'It is one of the twelve,' he replied, 'one who dips bread into the bowl with me. The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would have been better if he had not been born.' While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying, 'Take it: this is my body.' Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, and they all drank from it. 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,' he said to them. 'I tell you the truth, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it anew in the kingdom of God.' When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Garden of Gethsemane." (*Mark 14: 17-26*)

HYMN

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

REDHEAD

- (1) Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour;
turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- (2) Follow to the judgment hall; view the Lord of life arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross. (*cont.*)

(3) Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete;
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

(4) Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay:
all is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

PRAYER BEFORE THE WORD

Michael Jinkins

Upon this night, Merciful God, we remember how much you gave, how little we understood; we remember all you sacrificed, and that to which we clung so foolishly; we recall, with gratitude, that your love does not depend upon our righteousness, for we are but frail creatures of dust and feeble as frail. But upon this night, this night above all others, we recognize: although there is no end to our need for you, your loving-kindness, your patience, and your power to redeem remain surer even than our need.

Lord, open our ears that we may hear. Amen.

FIRST READING: *Psalm 22*

GOSPEL READING: *Mark 15:33-38*

SERMON

"My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

Michael Jinkins

SILENCE

ANTHEM

"Ave Verum Corpus"

Mozart

Hail, true body, born of the Virgin Mary, who truly suffered, sacrificed on the cross for man,
whose pierced side overflowed with water and blood, be for us a foretaste in the test of death.

Kameron Lopreore, tenor

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth, and create the fruit of the vine. You made us in your image, and freed us from the bonds of slavery. You claimed us as your people, and made covenant to be our God. You fed us manna in the wilderness, and brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey. When we forgot you, and our faith was weak, you spoke through prophets, calling us to turn again to your ways. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, whom you sent to deliver us from the bondage of death and slavery to sin. In humility he descends from your heights, to kneel in obedience to love's commands. He who is boundless takes on the bondage of our sin. He who is free takes our place in death's prison. He who is risen leads us to eternal life.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ and with all who are baptized in his name, that we may be one in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit to live as love commands. Bound to Christ, set us free for joyful obedience and glad service. As Jesus gave his life for ours, help us to live our lives for others with humility and persistent courage. Give us strength to serve you faithfully until the promised day of resurrection, when, with the redeemed of all the ages, we will feast with you at your table in glory. Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

All are invited to now partake in the Lord's Supper in their homes.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

HYMN

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

(1) Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!

(2) Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.

(3) Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
the slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered;
for our atonement, while we nothing heeded, God interceded.

(4) 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.

(5) Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever pray thee,
think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM *(altered)*

“Almighty God, who has given us grace at this time to make our common supplications unto you, and who promises that when two or three are gathered together in your name you will be present with them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of your people, according to your will, granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the world to come, eternal life. Amen

And may the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you and upon you evermore. Amen.



WORSHIP WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW WITH THE GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE AT NOON.