



THE WAY
TO THE CROSS

A Service for the Holy Triduum



April 17, 2025 at 7:00 PM
First Presbyterian Church,
Blairstown, NJ

Rev. David Harvey

** Please stand if you are able.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

A Maundy Thursday ~ Good Friday Tenebrae Service

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

ORGAN PRELUDE: *Ich Ruf zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ - JS Bach (2-25)*

CHORAL INTROIT

WELCOME: Pastor David Harvey

* CALL TO WORSHIP: Teri Harvey
(adapted from 'The Suffering Servant,' Isaiah 53: 2-5)

L: He had no form or majesty that we should look at him.

P: Nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

L: He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity.

P: As one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

L: Surely, he has born our infirmities and carried our diseases, yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

P: He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole. By his bruises we are healed.

L: With a contemplative spirit, meditate on this night. Think of its meaning that by his stripes we may be healed and made whole. Let us worship God.

* HYMN: No. 85 *What Wondrous Love Is This* vv. 1 & 2

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul, To bear the heavy cross for my soul!

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,

To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;

While millions join the theme, I will sing!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(in silence and unison)*

Lord Jesus, like Judas, we have betrayed you; like Peter, we have denied you; like the other disciples, we have deserted you. Nevertheless, you remain faithful to us unto death, even death on the cross. In your mercy, forgive our sin of betrayal and desertion; grant us grace to live life with your humility and hospitality; awaken within us the joy of your precious salvation; in your holy and strong name, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF CHRIST'S FORGIVENESS:

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ: through the cross of Christ, we are forgiven.

P: **By Jesus' death on the cross, we are forgiven.
Let us forgive one another.**

HYMN OF GRATITUDE: *Give Thanks* *No. 647 GTG*

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the holy one,
give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now, let the weak say "we are strong," let the poor say "we
are rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks.*

The Holy Way to the Cross — Holy Thursday

The Preparation & the Institution of the Holy Meal

LUKE 22: 7–13 — The Preparation of the Passover Meal. Ryan Burke

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE: Deacon Teri Harvey

This is not a Presbyterian table. This is the Lord's Table, . . .
Listen to the gracious words of our Savior Jesus Christ:

This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day. *John 6: 40*

Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if those who hear my voice open the door, I will come in to them and eat with them, and they with me. *Revelation 3: 20*

L: Why have we gathered here?

P: **We come because we have been called to live out a story.**

L: What story shall we live?

P: The story of God’s saving love, revealed in Jesus.

L: Where did this story begin?

P: It was whispered before time began. It was sung in the melody of Creation.

L: Whose story is this?

P: This story is God’s alone to tell. It hums in the rivers and the trees. It whispers in the skies and the seas. It calls to the people of all places. It speaks in our hearts and in our lives.

L: Why then should we speak of this story?

P: This story calls our name in Creation and claims our lives through the Cross and the empty tomb, of our redemption. We are its telling in this time, this space, and this place.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING, OF THE PEOPLE

& THE LORD’S PRAYER:

Pastor David

L: With storytellers of all ages and in all places, we offer ourselves to the Lord. Let us pray: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God almighty . . . the prayer Jesus taught, praying:

P: “Our Father, who art . . . forever. Amen.”

LUKE 22: 14–20 — Jesus Institutes the Holy Meal. Pastor David

L: This is our common story, our deep memory, our true destiny. Let it be our story, our testimony.

P: We celebrate God’s grace that has formed and continues to inform our faith and our lives.

L: The feast of God for the people of God, let us eat and drink.

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS: *Approach the Table, take the bread, take the cup, and return to your pew.*

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

JOHN 13: 1–17 — Jesus washes his disciples’ feet. Pastor David

LUKE 22: 21–23 — The Prediction of Jesus’ Betrayal. Levi Arena

COMMUNION BLESSING:

Teri Harvey

L: What is our prayer this day?

P: Ever-gracious and life-giving God, on this holy evening when we have remembered the Last Supper of the Lord Jesus, when his body was broken for us and his blood poured out for us, accept us in spite of our unworthiness. Fill us with mutual love for you and for one another that we may live into Jesus' words and strive to love one another as he loved us. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Good Friday — "By His Stripes We Are Healed"

(1 Peter 2: 24)

MATTHEW 26: 14–16, 45–50 — The Betrayal Joanna Leontaris

MATTHEW 26: 56b–58 — The Arrest Don Nicholls

JOHN 18: 28–38 — The Trial Erika Wulster

HYMN: No. 101 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross vv. 1 & 2

***When 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.***

***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.***

~The first candle is extinguished. ~

JOHN 19: 1–7 — The Conviction Bill Olivier

JOHN 19: 8–18 — The Execution Lisa Besser

JOHN 3: 16–17, JOHN 15: 12–13 — The Purpose Emily Arena

HYMN: No. 101 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross vv. 3 & 4

***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?***

Cont'd.

**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**

~ The second candle is extinguished. ~

JOHN 19: 19–25 — The Crucifixion Pastor David

JOHN 19: 25b–27 — The Accommodation Joanna Leontaris

HYMN: No. 98 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* vv. 1 & 3

***O 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.***

***What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever; And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love to Thee.***

~ The third candle is extinguished. ~

MATTHEW 27: 45–47 — The Abandonment Bill Olivier

JOHN 19: 28–29 — Quenching Jesus' Thirst Deb Albrecht

LUKE 23: 44–46 — The Death of Jesus Lisa Besser

ANTHEM: *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?* Chancel Choir
by Joseph Martin

~ The fourth candle is extinguished. ~

MATTHEW 27: 54 — The Declaration Don Nicholls

A PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

JOHN 19: 31–37 — The Piercing and The Removal Deb Albrecht

HYMN: No. 84 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* vv. 1 & 4

***In the cross of Christ I glory, Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime.***

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.**

~ The fifth candle is extinguished. ~

JOHN 19: 38-42 — The Burial

Pastor David

~ The sixth candle is extinguished. ~

HYMN: No. 84 In the Cross of Christ I Glory vv. 3 & 4

**When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.**

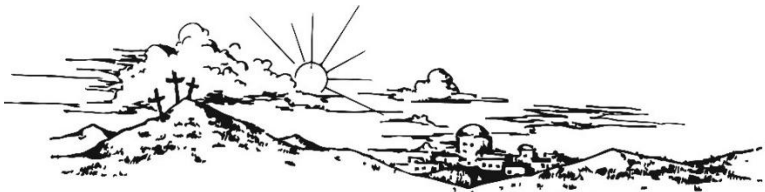
~ The seventh candle is extinguished. ~

STRIPPING OF THE CHURCH

- The removal of the candles.
- The removal of the offering plates.
- The removal of the paraments.
- The removal of the Christ candle.
- The removal of the cross.
- The removal of Holy Scripture.
- The sepulcher is sealed.

SOLO: Were You There? Maggie Morokutti

BENEDICTION: Exit in silence.



It is finished.



Our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of
this evening's participants:

- Pastor:** Rev. David Harvey
- Worship Leader &
Communion Assistant:** Teri Harvey
- Greeter:** Bill Olivier
- Ushers:** Deb and Gary Albrecht
- Readers:** Deborah Albrecht, Emily Arena,
Levi Arena, Lisa Besser,
Ryan Burke, Joanna Leontaris,
Don Nicholls, Bill Olivier,
Erika Wolster
- Soloist:** Maggie Morokutti
- Anthem:** The Chancel Choir
- Communion Preparation:** Erika Wolster



Celebrate Easter Sunday with us!

7:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service,
Blair Lake on Blair Academy Campus

10:00 AM Easter Service with Holy Communion,
Church Sanctuary

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825
Church Office: 35 Main St., P.O. Box 385, Blairstown, NJ 07825
Office/Pantry Phone: (908) 362-5254 Fax: (908) 362-8060
e-Mail: fpcb@ptd.net Website: fpcb-nj.org
Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

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