



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

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Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BLAIRSTOWN, NJ

A Maundy Thursday-Good Friday Tenebrae Service

7:00 PM

GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

April 17, 2025

ORGAN PRELUDE:

Ich Ruf zu Dir, Herr Jesu Christ - JS Bach

(2-25)

CHORAL INTROIT

WELCOME:

Pastor David Harvey

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

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*

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22: 7-13 — The Preparation of the Passover Meal. Ryan Burke

⁷Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover meal for us that we may eat it." ⁹They asked him, "Where do you want us to make preparations for it?" ¹⁰"Listen," he said to them, "when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house he enters ¹¹and say to the owner of the house, 'The teacher asks you, "Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"' ¹²He will show you a large room upstairs, already furnished. Make preparations for us there." ¹³So they went and found everything as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:

Deacon Teri Harvey

This not a Presbyterian table. This is the Lord's Table, and Jesus is the host. Our Savior invites all who are truly sorry for their sins and would humbly put their trust in him to come to the feast which he has prepared. 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:

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."

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

¹⁴When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵He said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, ¹⁶for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves, ¹⁸for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

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: Jesus said, *“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”* (Jn. 6:37) As we eat this bread in remembrance of Christ, may the spirit that is in him be in us also.

DRINKING THE CUP: Jesus said, *“I am the vine, you are the branches, apart from him, we can do nothing.”* Let us drink this cup in remembrance of Christ and may the spirit in which he died be our Spirit.

SCRIPTURE: John 13: 1–17 — Jesus washes his disciples’ feet.

Pastor David

13 Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.² The devil had already decided that Judas son of Simon Iscariot would betray Jesus. And during supper³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God,⁴ got up from supper, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”⁷ Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”⁸ Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.”⁹ Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!”¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.”¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am.¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.¹⁶ Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.¹⁷ If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 22: 21–23 — The Prediction of Jesus’ Betrayal.

Levi Arena

²¹ But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table.²² For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!”²³ Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

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)

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

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. Then Jesus came to the disciples and said to them, "Still asleep? Still resting? The hour has come! The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Up, let us go! The traitor is upon us."

He was still speaking when Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared, and with him a great crowd armed with swords and clubs sent by the chief priests and the elders of the name. The traitor had given them this sign: "The one I kiss is your man; seize him." Going straight up to Jesus, he said, "Hail, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came forward, seized Jesus, and held him fast.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 26: 56b–58 — The Arrest Don Nicholls

Then the disciples all deserted him and ran away. Jesus was led away under arrest to the house of Caiphias the high priest, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed him at a distance till he came to the high priest's courtyard; he went in and sat down among the attendees, to see how it would all end.

SCRIPTURE: John 18: 28–38 — The Trial Erika Wulster

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews

replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." ³² (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." ³⁷ Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him."

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.~

SCRIPTURE: **John 19: 1–7 — The Conviction** Bill Olivier

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵ So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" ⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." ⁷ The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

SCRIPTURE:**John 19: 8–18 — The Execution**

Lisa Besser

⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” ¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.”

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” ¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but the emperor.” ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

SCRIPTURE:**John 3: 16–17, John 15: 12–13 The Purpose**

Emily Arena

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. . . . This is my commandment: Love one another as I have loved you. There is no greater love than this, that someone should lay down their life for one’s friends.

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?
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. ~

SCRIPTURE:**John 19: 19–25 — The Crucifixion**

Pastor David

¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.” ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” ²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.” ²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

SCRIPTURE:**John 19:25b–27—The Accommodation**

Joanna Leontaris

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

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. ~

SCRIPTURE:**Matthew 27: 45–47 — The Abandonment**

Bill Olivier

From the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God why have you forsaken me?” When some of those who stood there heard this, they said, the man is calling on Elijah.

SCRIPTURE: **John 19: 28–29 — Quenching Jesus’ Thirst** Deborah Albrecht

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth.

SCRIPTURE: **Luke 23: 44–46 — The Death of Jesus** Lisa Besser

It was now about the sixth hour and the sun’s light failed, so that darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Sanctuary was torn right down the middle, Jesus cried out in a loud voice saying, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit. With these words he breathed his last.

ANTHEM: *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?* by Joseph Martin Chancel Choir
~ *The fourth candle is extinguished.* ~

SCRIPTURE: **Matthew 27: 54 — The Declaration** Don Nicholls

The centurion, together with the others guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and all that was taking place, they were terrified and said, “In truth, this man was God’s Son!”

A PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE: **John 19: 31–37 — The Piercing and The Removal** Deborah Albrecht

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) ³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, “None of his bones shall be broken.” ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, “They will look on the one whom they have pierced.”

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. Cont’d.
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.* ~

SCRIPTURE:

John 19: 38-42 –The Burial

Pastor David

³⁸Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. ³⁹With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. ⁴⁰Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth. ⁴¹The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. ⁴²And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

~ *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

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?(Were you there?)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (Were you there?)

*Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were you there?)
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were you there?)*

BENEDICTION:

Exit in silence.



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 Wulster
Soloist: Maggie Morokutti
Anthem: The Chancel Choir
Communion Preparation: Erika Wulster

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