

Good Friday



April 18, 2025 • 12:10 p.m.

THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO



Prelude

Were You There Emma Lou Diemer

Opening Sentences

One: *Christ Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross
so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.*

All: Blessed is the name of the Lord.

Prayer of the Day

***Hymn 223** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

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.

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Psalter Psalm 22

Scripture Lesson John 18:1—19:42 (*selected portions*)

Solo

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord? Spiritual

Homily Nancy Benson-Nicol

***Hymn 220 “Go to Dark Gethsemane”**

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.

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.

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.

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.

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Johann Sebastian Bach

Solemn Reproaches of the Cross

Each of the eight “Reproaches” ends with the phrase,
“*You have prepared a cross for your Savior,*”
to which the congregation responds,
“**Lord, have mercy.**”

***Hymn 218.** “Ah, Holy Jesus”

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!

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.

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.

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.

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.

*There is no benediction or postlude this day.
Our service and watch continue into the night
and the empty tomb. Please depart in silence.*

We are grateful to be worshipping with you today and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church. ✨ Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, **we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation.** ✨ We invite you to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice. ✨ **For ways to connect with one another and Fourth Church**, whether in person or online, as well as for various resources, please visit our website: *fourthchurch.org* ✨ We also invite you to subscribe to our weekly **email newsletter** at bit.ly/newsfromfpc so we might share with you information, updates, and **snapshots of life at Fourth Church.**

At 5:30 p.m. today there is a program in Buchanan Chapel for children and families; and **at 6:30 p.m. tonight** we will have a Choral Service that will conclude with the tolling of the bells thirty-three times, one for each year of Jesus' life on earth. The 6:30 p.m. choral service, which features Franz Josef Haydn's *Stabat Mater* presented by the Fourth Church Morning and Chancel Choirs and members of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, will be livestreamed on YouTube (*bit.ly/fpcvideos*).

We hope you will join us on **Easter Sunday** for our joyous celebration of the resurrection! We will gather for three services: **6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service** with Communion at Oak Street Beach; and **9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Easter services** in the Sanctuary. **The 9:30 a.m. Easter service will be livestreamed** on YouTube (*bit.ly/fpcvideos*), with the prelude beginning at approximately 9:15 a.m. and the service available for viewing anytime after that. **Those without Internet access** are invited to listen via phone by calling 888.916.9166 at the time of the service. ✨ An **Easter program for children** will be held in the Gratz Center at 9:30 a.m. on Easter; nursery care will be available between 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. ✨ **For more about observing Holy Week and Easter**, see *fourthchurch.org/lent-easter*

WORSHIP LEADERS

Nanette Sawyer, *Associate Pastor*

Nancy Benson-Nicol, *Associate Pastor*

Douglas Cleveland, *Interim Organist and Director of Music*

Carol Carpenter, *soloist*

We are receiving a special One Great Hour of Sharing Offering throughout Holy Week.

Gifts to this offering support the work of Fourth Church Meals Ministry; and Chicago Lights Tutoring and Social Service Center; and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People programs.

To make a “One Great Hour of Sharing” gift, you can use the envelopes found in the pew racks (and then place the envelope in one of the offering boxes at the exits), designate “One Great Hour of Sharing” (OGHS) when giving via Venmo or at fourthchurch.org/give, or write OGHS on the memo line of a check made payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

A NOTE ON HOLY WEEK AND ANTISEMITISM

The Passion texts can pose problems for Christian-Jewish relations. For centuries, many Christians blamed “The Jews” for Christ’s death. This interpretation is incorrect, misguided, and dangerous. In fact, crucifixion was solely a Roman form of punishment, one used to frighten subjugated peoples into obeying Roman authority. Tragically, Christians have misused the reading of the Passion to foment violent antisemitic pogroms. Antisemitism still plagues the world. We read these texts with sensitivity and caution, remembering the cruelties and failures of our past.



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