

April 18, 2025

Good Friday

7:30pm Worship



everything
[in] between

acceptance & resistance



First Presbyterian
Church of Albany

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF FAITH TO ALL

WELCOME!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time
or have grown up here at FPC,
we are glad you have joined us for worship this evening.

** indicates when to rise in body or spirit*

Prelude

Meditation: "Love Unknown"

Francis Jackson

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: We have been here before—

All: A place of grieving and mourning.

One: We have been here before—

All: A night that seems it won't end.

One: We have been here before—

All: Knee deep in fear, knee deep in doubt.

One: We have been here before—

All: Good Friday, the night Christ died.

One: So once again, we find ourselves here—

All: In community, in God's arms.

One: Where else would we go when the world falls apart?

Let us worship holy God.

Hymn No. 221O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE



1. O sac - red head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down;
 2. What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,

now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?

O sac - red head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint - ing be,

Yet, though des - pised and go - ry, I joy to call thee mine.
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

Scripture Luke 23:1-12**Choral Selection***Ah, Holy Jesus*

John Ferguson

Sharon Steffens, *viola*

Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
 by foes derided, by thine own rejected,

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.

Scripture Luke 23:20-27**Choral Selection***Arbolucu Te Sequeste*

Carlos Chavez

Tree of sorrow I bewail you, with the fountain at your feet:
 for your trunk shares the gift of life, and your foliage full of love.

First Story – Simon of Cyrene

Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

One: Let us pray:

**All: Jesus, when we side with you,
we side with all who threaten the status quo.**

One: When we refuse the call
to see others' struggles as our own,
we abandon our kin to shoulder their crosses alone.
So we pray, O God,

**All: embolden us to accept the risks that come with following you—
even as we resist the powers and systems
that set crosses on our shoulders.**

One: We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray saying

**All: 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.**

Scripture Luke 23:39-43

Second Story – The criminal on the cross

Choral Selection

Crucifixion

Adolphus Hailstork

They crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumblin' word.
They nailed him to a tree, and he never said a mumblin' word.
They pierced him in the side and he never said a mumblin' word.
He bowed his head and died and he never said a mumblin' word.

Scripture Luke 23:44-46, 48

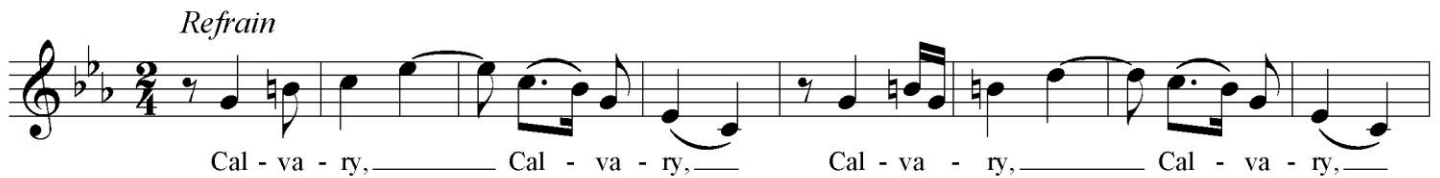
Silence

***Hymn**

Calvary

AFRICAN AMERICAN SPIRITUAL

Refrain



Cal - va - ry, Cal - va - ry, Cal - va - ry, Cal - va - ry,



Cal - va - ry, Sure - ly he died on Cal - va - ry.

Fine



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Ev - ry time I think a - bout Je - sus, | ev - ry time I think a - bout Je - sus, |
| 2. Don't you hear the ham - mer ring - ing? | Don't you hear the ham - mer ring - ing? |
| 3. Don't you hear him call - ing his fa - ther? | Don't you hear him call - ing his fa - ther? |
| 4. Don't you hear him say "It is fin - ished"? | Don't you hear him say "It is fin - ished"? |



- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| ev - ry time I think a - bout Je - sus, | Sure - ly he died on Cal - va - ry. |
| Don't you hear the ham - mer ring - ing? | |
| Don't you hear him call - ing his fa - ther? | |
| Don't you hear him say "It is fin - ished"? | |

Closing Litany

Benediction

Worshippers, please depart the sanctuary in silence.

You are encouraged to take some time on Holy Saturday to read this poem. As you sit with your own troubles, fears, and griefs, remember the day that God lay dead in a tomb, accompanying us even into death.



they wanted – no, they needed
to touch you one last time.

so they trudged the tombward path
with their perfumes and their spices
their strips of cloth to cocoon your body in
for its final transformation back to dust

their shoulders almost broken with grief,
heavy as the cross
that crushed the life from your flesh.

let me fall in step behind them.
let me take my place in that line
of broken hearts bearing a cross of
grief together.
let me shoulder my share of the burden

and let me not rush
to the first fingers of dawn, frail and trembling,
reaching past a rolled-back stone
to empty space where your corpse
should be—

no. let me linger in the moment when
your corpse still lies there
and anguish fractures the air
into splinters that cut the lungs.

this moment matters:
your brown body
with the breath pressed out
by the inexorable boot of Empire
matters.

and the moment that comes after
cannot ease this one.

it never has, and it never will, for

there are still bodies broken,
breathless, beaten down
by Empire's brutality or else its apathy.

and you, with us to the last,
still lie among them—you hold
them close
and share their final exhalation
be it in the hospital bed, the street, a cell.

so let me not spring to sunrise
when your body can *still* be found
nestled with cold bodies in their graves.

blessed be the hands
that carry the spices and perfumes,
water and cloth!
blessed, blessed be the throats
worn rough with sobs
yet refusing to be silenced,
broadcasting the crime lest some
claim ignorance.

i'll not dishonor them by racing past
to the future reunion of
form to dust, breath to body,
lover to loved
before they're ready.

keep watch! Soak in! be present
with them!
this moment is holy.

All are Welcome in this Place!

New faces and voices are always welcome and add to the spirit of our worship, education, mission and fellowship. Let us know you worshipped with us by either filling in the yellow card in the pew in front of you or by scanning the QR code. Pastors Miriam & Glenn use email addresses to share congregational email and important announcements about the life of the church.



First Presbyterian Church

is a community for all people where apprentices of Jesus seek to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

We are called by God to envision and work toward eradicating systemic poverty, eliminating structural racism and sharing the experience of the good news of God's love, peace and joy.

Our Sunday services are held at 10:30am with education classes for all ages from 9:15 to 10:15pm. We welcome children to our worship services. On Sundays from 8:45am to 12:15pm nursery care by experienced childcare staff is provided for children ages birth through kindergarten on the second floor of the Christian Education Building.

Parking is available on Sunday mornings in Washington Park. There is also a parking lot on Washington Avenue just west of Lark Street available during church services on Sunday mornings. The church parking lot on Sunday mornings is reserved for visitors and for those who, for physical reasons, need close access to the church. Please note the spaces reserved for those with disabilities, and please do not block other cars.

Serving you this evening:

Sanctuary Ushers/Greeters: Jeff Durgee & Owen Gilbo

Online Worship Assistant: Maureen Del Giacco

Audio Visual Support: Kevin Fuscus

Come to Easter Celebration

Easter, April 20

Sunrise FOCUS Service
at 6:30am

Swan Street Stairs, west side
of Capital Park. A 30-minute
outdoor worship service;
please bring a lawn chair for
your comfort.



9:15am Easter Breakfast in Assembly Hall hosted by the FPC Youth Group -
-Celebrate with family and friends before worship. Enjoy a delicious spread of
warm breakfast casseroles, fresh fruit, and a chocolate fountain! Your freewill
donation supports FPC Youth Service Projects!

Worship Service at 10:30am: in the sanctuary & livestreamed on YouTube

Fellowship Time: Following the service in Assembly Hall – enjoy conversation
& refreshments.



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*Glenn D. Leupold, Co-Pastor • Miriam Lawrence Leupold, Co-Pastor • Michael C. Lister, Director of Music
Trevor Kahlbaugh, Organist • Molly Dowell, Youth Director • Steven Minchin, Office Administrator*