



EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 www.ELPC.church

As a diverse community of believers, we strive to follow God – the Creator who calls us, Jesus who teaches us, and the Spirit who empowers us. We show God’s unconditional love by providing a refuge for spiritual growth, ardently pursuing justice, and extending Christ’s radical hospitality to all. (Strategic Vision mission statement, 2011)

GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 14, 2017 — 12 NOON CHAPEL WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP (*Phil. 2:8*)

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

Leader: Blessed be the name of the Lord our God.

People: **Who redeems us from sin and death.**

Leader: For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

People: **Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

* OPENING HYMN (*printed in bulletin*)

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

REDHEAD

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: What part of ourselves is found in the shadow of the mob that streamed to Calvary? What part of ourselves creates nails in other forms that wound our brothers and sisters – and our God? Complicity, apathy, guile oppress us and stifle our joy; let us bring our sins to God in genuine repentance and discover what God will do for us.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Ever-living and ever-loving God, how frayed our lives have become. We have not kept our eyes upon your saving cross nor listened with undivided attention to your voice. We have not sought your presence among the destitute nor accepted ourselves as persons for whom you died. Stretch our boundaries, stir our hearts, and inflame our souls to behold you in every fragment of life, to feel you in every moment of time, and to serve you in every occasion with obedience and joy.

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN (*sing 3 times; printed in bulletin*)

“Jesus, Remember Me”

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Brothers and sisters, Christ bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live for righteousness. By Christ’s wounds we have been healed. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel!

People: **En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.
¡Alaben a Dios!**

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Praise God!**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 53:1-9, 12

The Rev. Schoenewolf

HOMILY

“Unmasking Suffering”

The Rev. Schoenewolf

ANTHEM

“The Wonder of Your Cross”

Journey Praise Team

* Indicates where you may please rise in body or spirit.

— TENEBRAE LITURGY —

THE BETRAYAL OF JESUS

John 18:1-11

Pamela Kimmel

The first candle is extinguished

Silent Meditation

Prayer for the World

Leader: As we meditate on Jesus' betrayal by his dear friend, we are mindful that so many in our world know the sting of betrayal: by governments that fail to honor the full humanity of those they serve; by those in positions of power who oppress the vulnerable; by systems of care that fail to meet human need; and even by loved ones whose actions have brought about harm. May the cross of Christ serve as a mirror to us all, allowing us to see and confess places of betrayal in our lives, so that we might embody mercy and live in peace.

People: **Merciful Savior, as we meditate on your cross, convict us of our sin yet remind us of your grace. May we be strengthened by your example to embody mercy, extend compassion, and work for justice for all. Amen.**

THE ARREST OF JESUS

John 18:12-14, 19-22

Jerry Wrzosek

The second candle is extinguished

Silent Meditation

Prayer for the World

Leader: As we meditate on Jesus' arrest, we are reminded of those today who are arrested or detained not because of any crime they have committed, but because of the color of their skin, the religion they profess, or the country of their birth. While many strive to enforce the law as instruments of justice and peace-keeping, we are mindful that there are those whose biases breed injustice and cause harm. May the cross of Christ serve as a mirror to us all, allowing us to see and confess places of bias in our hearts, so that we might embody mercy and live in peace.

People: **Merciful Savior, as we meditate on your cross, convict us of our sin yet remind us of your grace. May we be strengthened by your example to embody mercy, extend compassion, and work for justice for all. Amen.**

THE DENIAL OF JESUS

John 18:15-18, 25-27

Sharron Boddy

The third candle is extinguished

Silent Meditation

Prayer for the World

Leader: As we meditate on Jesus' denial by his dear friend Peter, we are reminded of those today who are denied – by friends, by family, by neighbor, and even by the church. Out of fear, out of judgment, and out of self-preservation we often cut off those who are different from us – denying our connection to them, and sometimes even denying them their worth. As we seek forgiveness for this sin in our lives and in our world, we likewise pray for the strength to stand in solidarity with all who are vulnerable, marginalized, judged by the world or cast aside. May the cross of Christ serve as a mirror to us all, allowing us to see and confess places of denial in our hearts, so that we might embody justice and live in peace.

People: **Merciful Savior, as we meditate on your cross, convict us of our sin yet remind us of your grace. May we be strengthened by your example to embody mercy, extend compassion, and work for justice for all. Amen.**

HYMN (*printed in bulletin*)

“When I Survey The Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

THE JUDGMENT OF JESUS

John 18:28-40

Mark Blank

The fourth candle is extinguished

Silent Meditation

Prayer for the World

Leader: As we meditate on Jesus' judgment by Pilate and by the crowd, we are reminded of those who face judgment and persecution for speaking and living their truth. We recall those of any age who are bullied by peers, who are pegged as a scapegoat for the pains of others, or those who

serve as the target for others' aggressions. There are innocent victims all around us, who suffer because of our failure to protect. As we seek forgiveness for this sin in our lives and in our world, we likewise pray for the courage to stand up for the innocent, to give voice to the voiceless, and to speak truth in the face of persecution. May the cross of Christ serve as a mirror to us all, allowing us to see and confess places of judgment in our hearts, so that we might embody justice and live in peace.

People: **Merciful Savior, as we meditate on your cross, convict us of our sin yet remind us of your grace. May we be strengthened by your example to embody mercy, extend compassion, and work for justice for all. Amen.**

THE SENTENCING OF JESUS

John 19:1-16

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

The fifth candle is extinguished

Silent Meditation

Prayer for the World

Leader: As we meditate on Jesus' sentencing and conviction, we are reminded of those who receive death sentences in our world – some through systems of criminal justice, but some due to human failure to respond to the needs of those who are hungry, homeless, sick, impoverished and abused in our community and throughout our world. Some receive unjust sentences as a result of human action, and others are sentenced to death because of human inaction. As we seek forgiveness for this sin in our lives and in this world, we likewise pray for the compassion to minister to the needs of others, even when it stretches us outside of our comfort zone or challenges our own personal sense of security.

People: **Merciful Savior, as we meditate on your cross, convict us of our sin yet remind us of your grace. May we be strengthened by your example to embody mercy, extend compassion, and work for justice for all. Amen.**

THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

John 19:16b-27

Burl J. F. Moone, III

The sixth candle is extinguished

Silent Meditation

Prayer for the World

Leader: As we meditate on Jesus' crucifixion, we are reminded of all manner of violence in our world today – the violence of torture, the violence of abuse in any form, the violence of war. We know that violence wounds bodies, injures spirits, and diminishes life in many ways. Yet we confess that even as we are horrified by acts of violence around us, violence is so pervasive that we have sometimes grown numb to its impact in our lives. As we seek forgiveness for this sin in our lives and in our world, we likewise pray for the sensitivity to be stirred by acts of violence that we would respond in compassion and courage as instruments of your peace. May the cross of Christ serve as a mirror to us all, allowing us to see and confess places of violence and immunity to violence in our hearts, so that we might embody justice and live in peace.

People: **Merciful Savior, as we meditate on your cross, convict us of our sin yet remind us of your grace. May we be strengthened by your example to embody mercy, extend compassion, and work for justice for all. Amen.**

THE DEATH OF JESUS

John 19:28-30

The Rev. Schoenewolf

The final candle is extinguished

Silent Meditation

HYMN (*printed in bulletin*)

“Were You There”

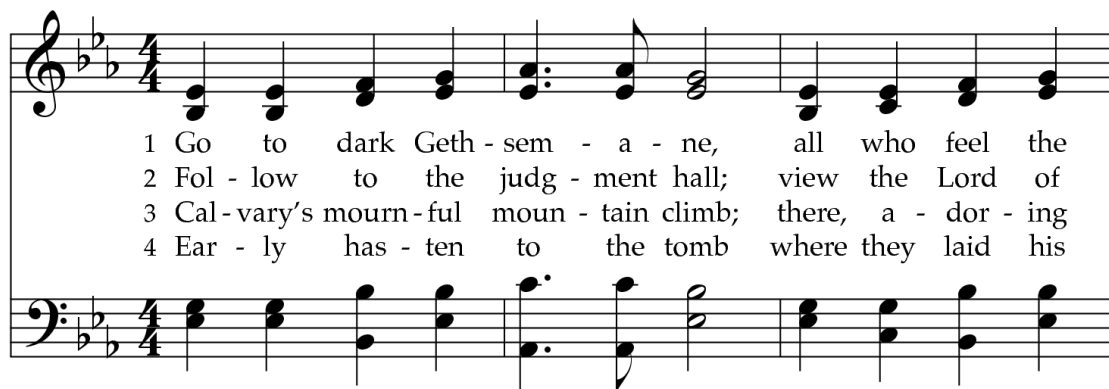
WERE YOU THERE

DEPART IN SILENCE

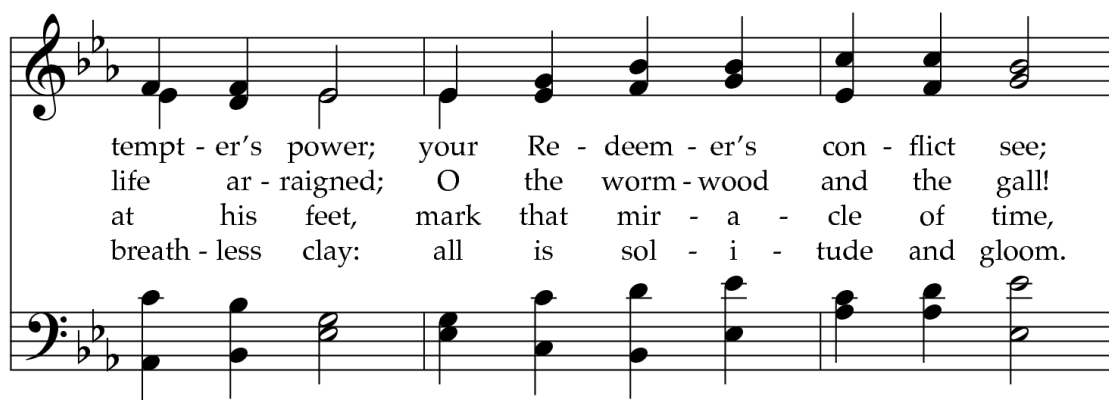
You are welcome to remain in the Chapel for a time of silent prayer following our service. Our Prayer and Meditation Room is also available for silent prayer and meditation all day.



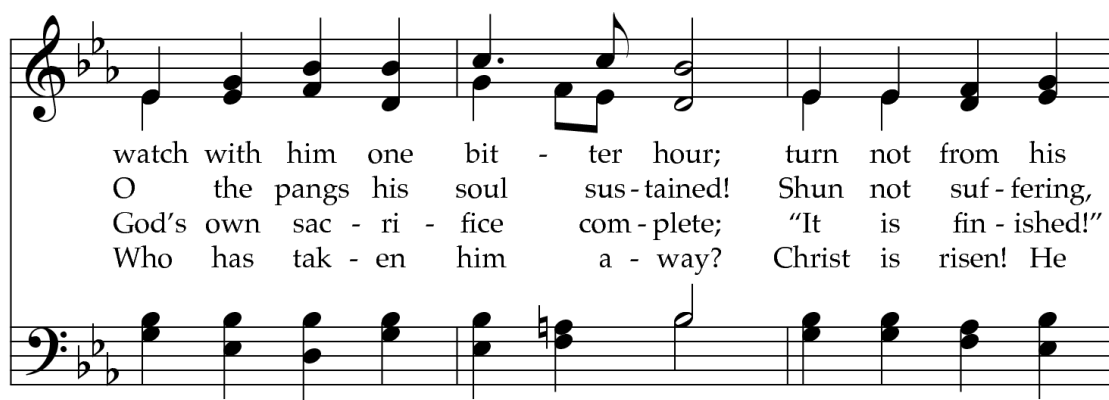
GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE



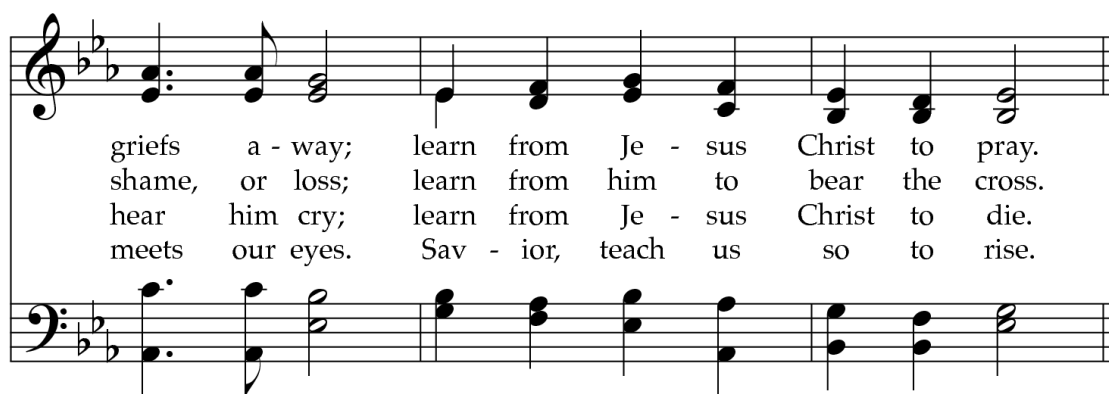
1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of
3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his



tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;
life ar - rained; O the worm - wood and the gall!
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay: all is sol - i - tude and gloom.



watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his
O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,
God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete; "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He



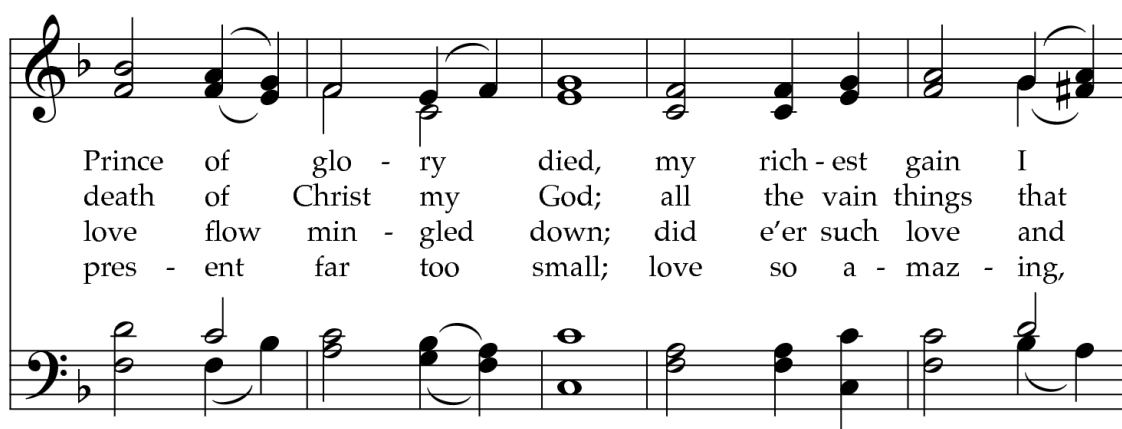
griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

The composer intended this tune for "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" (no. 438), but its solemn tone and small range make it an effective setting for this series of somber vignettes portraying what Christians can learn from Christ: to pray, to bear the cross, to die, and to rise.

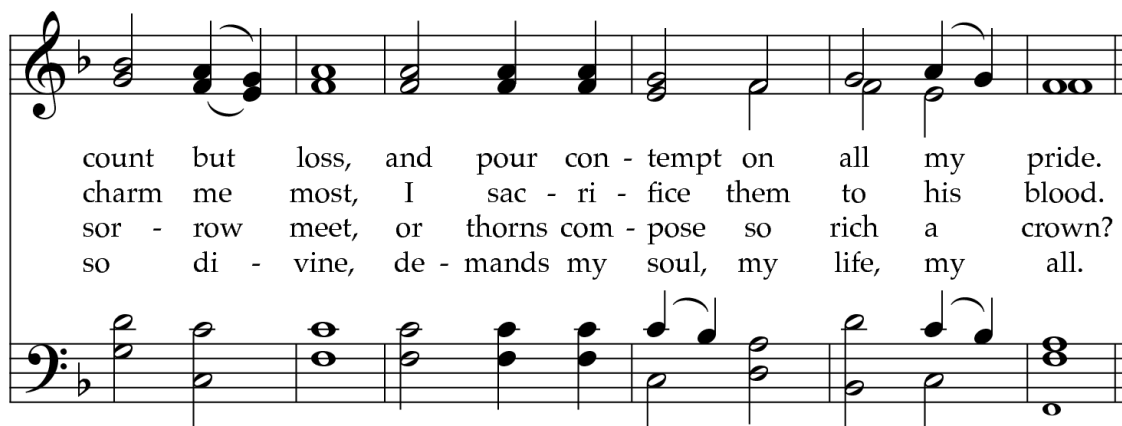
WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down; did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

This familiar text from the beginning of the 18th century grew out of Isaac Watts's desire to give Christians the ability to sing about gospel events. It is set here to a very restrained tune from the early 19th century inspired by the patterns of Gregorian chant.

WERE YOU THERE



1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you
2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you
3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you
4 Were you there when the sun re-fused to shine? (Were you
5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you

there?) Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
there?) Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
there?) Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
there?) Were you there when the sun re-fused to shine?
there?) Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

O! Some-times it caus - es me to

trem - ble, trem - ble, trem - ble. Were you

Few hymns from any culture have captured the pathos of Jesus' crucifixion as movingly as this African American spiritual. Its emotional climax (and highest pitch) comes in the great "O!" at the center of each stanza, a moment that moves beyond anything words can convey.

there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)
 there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there?)
 there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there?)
 there when the sun re - fused to shine? (Were you there?)
 there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

JESUS, REMEMBER ME *(sing 3 times)*

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

*Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship.
Hearing assistance devices are available from the ushers.*

♦ **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Preaching: The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf
Liturgists: The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy
Mark Blank
Sharron Boddy
Pamela Kimmel
Burl J. F. Moone, III
Jerry Wrzosek
Musicians: Gabriel T. D'Abruzzo, *Music Associate*
Journey Praise Team
Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

♦ **WEEKDAY WORSHIP**

Labyrinth Prayer Walk

The labyrinth, a 35-foot floor mat with curved paths leading inward, is an ancient tool for walking and seated meditation. The ELPC labyrinth is a replica of the stone labyrinth laid in the floor of Chartres Cathedral in France.

The labyrinth will be available during Holy Week:
Good Friday, April 14..... 9:00 am to 9:00 pm
Saturday, April 15 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Taizé Sung Prayer

Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France.
Wednesdays, 7 pm

Prayer Room

(Room 135, in Highland Ave hallway)

Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to listen for the still, small voice of God. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness that is ELPC.

Open everyday

♦ **WORSHIP SERVICES**

Below is a listing of the remaining Holy Week and Easter Sunday services we are offering at East Liberty Presbyterian Church. We invite you to join us on our journey.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14

7:00 pm **Tenebrae Service.** In Sanctuary. Service of light and darkness. The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching.

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15

7:00 pm.....**Easter Vigil Service.** The Great Vigil includes reaffirmation of baptism vows, communion and announcement of Christ's resurrection. Service begins in the Chapel. The Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan will lead this service.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

8:45 am**Journey Worship.** The Rev. Patrice L. Fowler-Searcy will preach at this communion service in the Social Hall.

9:45 am**Fellowship Time.** Please join us in the Small Dining Room (on the ground floor) from 9:45 to 10:45 am for a special time of fellowship and hospitality.

11 am**Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists. Special music begins at 10:45 am. The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush preaching and leading communion.

The worship spaces will not have Easter lilies out of respect for people allergic to plant aromas.

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted that you have chosen to celebrate this season with us at ELPC. We invite you to register your name in our Friendship Book.

To learn more about our programs, church activities and volunteer services, we invite you to:

Identify yourself as a newcomer, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have about ELPC.

Pick up a copy of our newsletter, the *Reaching Out*, either in the Narthex or at the Hospitality Desk near the Highland Avenue doors.

Attend an Inquirers' Class on **Sundays, April 23 and 30** for an opportunity to learn more about ELPC and Presbyterian theology. Please contact Gloria Knopp to register or for more information (GloriaK@coh.net; 412.441.3800 x122).

Call the Church Office (412.441.3800), or visit the ELPC website at www.ELPC.church.