

# 7 LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

A GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE OF DARKNESS



**East Liberty  
Presbyterian Church**

[www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)

April 2, 2021 • 7 pm • Livestream

116 S Highland Ave • Pittsburgh, PA 15206  
**412.441.3800** [www.ELPC.church](http://www.ELPC.church)



# EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 South Highland Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206 412.441.3800 [www.ELPC.church](http://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)*

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## GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 2, 2021 — 7 PM LIVESTREAM WORSHIP

### PRELUDE

“Adagio for Strings”  
“Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727”

Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *organist*  
Samuel Barber/arr. William Strickland  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
*based on Glory to God hymnal #221*

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.

### WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Loving God, you sent Jesus Christ to save us. We have betrayed him. We have denied him. We have abandoned, mocked, and crucified him. Have mercy, O God, have mercy on us; through Jesus Christ, our high priest and only hope. Amen.

### CALL TO WORSHIP (*Isaiah 53:1, 4-5*)

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
People: Surely, he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we account him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted.  
Leader: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole...  
People: And by his bruises we are healed.

### HYMN #206

“This Is The Night”

MY NEIGHBOR

This is the night, dear friends, the night for weeping, when powers of darkness overcome the day,  
The night the faithful mourn the weight of evil whereby our sins the Son of Man betray.

This night the traitor, wolf within the sheepfold, betrays himself into his victim’s will,  
The Lamb of God for sacrifice preparing: sin brings about the cure for sin’s own ill.

This night Christ institutes his holy supper, blest food and drink for heart and soul and mind;  
This night injustice joins its hand to treason’s, and buys the ransom-price of humankind.

This night the Lord by slaves shall be arrested, he who destroys our slavery to sin;  
Accused of crime, to criminals be given, that judgment on the righteous Judge begin.

O make us sharers, Savior, of your Passion, that we may share your glory that shall be;  
Let us pass through these three dark nights of sorrow to Easter’s laughter and its liberty.

### CALL TO CONFESSION

The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: Suffering God, the way of the cross is a hard road.

**People: It is draining. It is demanding. It is fraught with danger.**

Leader: You ask us to stay by your side as you walk toward Calvary. But weariness and fear overtake us. Like the first disciples, we are quick:

**People: to betray you, to deny you, to abandon you.**

Leader: Forgive us, God, and strengthen us for the journey ahead. Give us courage to face the pain and suffering of this world and to respond with compassion. As the darkness gathers,

**People: renew our faith, fill us with hope, and startle us with your grace.**

**TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

The Rev. Dr. Bush

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**People: En Jesucristo tenemos perdón.  
Gracias a Dios.**

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN #217**

"On a Barren Hilltop"

KING'S WESTON

**On a barren hilltop just outside the walls of an ancient city as the evening falls,  
Speaks a dying figure hanging on a tree, saying "It is finished," words of victory.**

**Tested just as we are, in a world of strife, through the pain and conflict of a human life,  
Here at last completed with his final breath is a life triumphant over sin and death.**

**Let us then come boldly to the heavenly throne, where our human weakness is so fully known,  
And the mercy given by which we are freed, and the grace provided for our time of need.**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

**HOMILY**

"Priestly Qualifications"

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

**ANTHEM**

Adrianna Cleveland, Dr. Moore, *soloists*  
Michael Painter, Todd Farwell, *soloists*

"God So Loved the World"  
(from *The Crucifixion*)

John Stainer

◆ **SERVICE OF TENEBRAE** ◆

**THE FIRST WORD**

The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf

*"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)*

*First candle is extinguished*

*Time of Silent Reflection*

**THE SECOND WORD**

The Rev. Dr. Bush

*“Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” (Luke 23:43)*

*Second candle is extinguished*

*Time of Silent Reflection*

**THE THIRD WORD**

Kathryn Ophardt

*“Woman, here is your son. Here is your mother.” (John 19:26-27)*

*Third candle is extinguished*

*Time of Silent Reflection*

**HYMN #228**

**“Were You There”**

**WERE YOU THERE**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**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 when they nailed him to the tree?**

**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 when they pierced him in the side?**

**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 when the sun refused to shine?**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?**

**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?**

**THE FOURTH WORD**

The Rev. Dr. Bush

*“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mark 15:34)*

*Fourth candle is extinguished*

*Time of Silent Reflection*

**THE FIFTH WORD**

Damon Bethea

*“I am thirsty.” (John 19:28)*

*Fifth candle is extinguished*

*Time of Silent Reflection*

**THE SIXTH WORD**

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

*“It is finished.” (John 19:30)*

*Sixth candle is extinguished*

*Time of Silent Reflection*

HYMN #223

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

HAMBURG

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.

THE SEVENTH WORD

The Rev. BJ Woodworth

*“Father, into your hands I commend my Spirit.” (Luke 23:44-46)*

*Seventh candle is extinguished*

*Time of Silent Reflection*

LITANY

The Rev. Fowler-Searcy

Leader: Jesus, Lamb of God,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

**People: Have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**People: Grant us peace.**

DEPART IN SILENCE



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**PARTICIPANTS  
IN TODAY’S SERVICE:**

Preaching: The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy  
Participants: The Rev. Dr. Randall K. Bush  
The Rev. Heather Schoenewolf  
The Rev. BJ Woodworth  
Damon Bethea  
Kathryn Ophardt  
Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore,  
*Organist/Music Director*  
Adrianna Cleveland, *Cantor/Soloist*  
Michael Painter, *Cantor/Soloist*  
Todd Farwell, *Cantor/Soloist*  
A/V: Tim Benedict  
Wayne Gaines  
Matt Stufft

As part of ELPC’s mission to extend radical  
hospitality to all, our full worship service  
is now being livestreamed on:

**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/EastLibertyPresbyterian)

**YouTube**

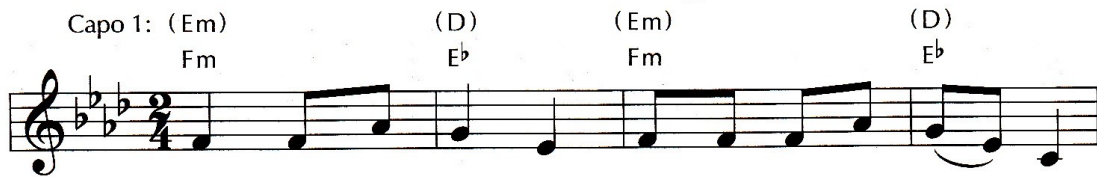
<http://tiny.cc/elpc-youtube>

and archived at **www.ELPC.church**

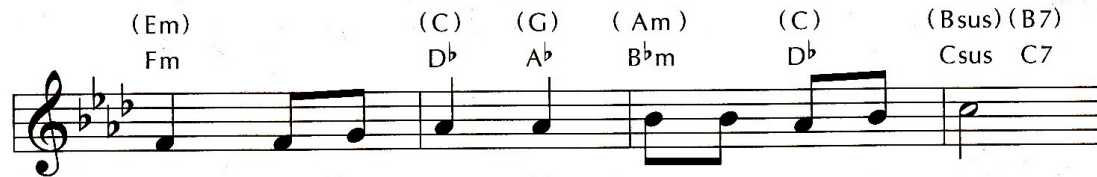
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**www.ELPC.church/donate**

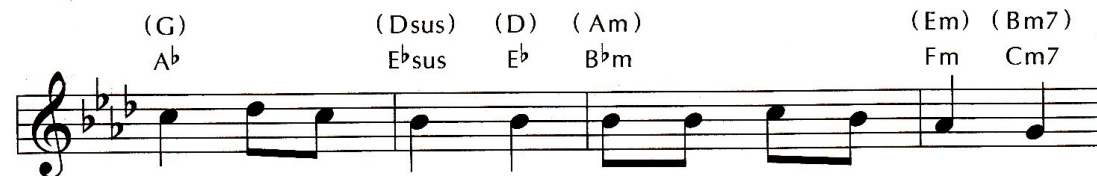
# THIS IS THE NIGHT



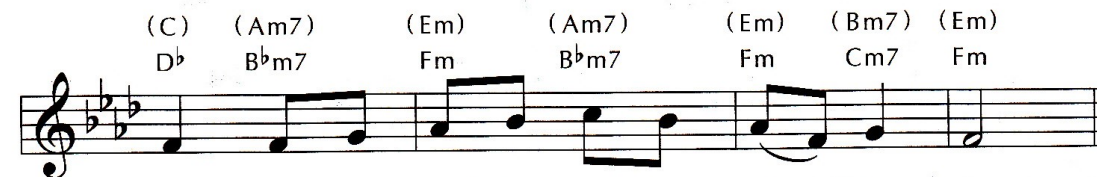
1 This is the night, dear friends, the night for weep - ing,  
 2 This night the trai - tor, wolf with - in the sheep - fold,  
 3 This night Christ in - sti - tutes his ho - ly sup - per,  
 4 This night the Lord by slaves shall be ar - rest - ed,  
 5 O make us shar - ers, Sav - ior, of your Pas - sion,



when powers of dark - ness o - ver - come the day,  
 be - trays him - self in - to his vic - tim's will,  
 blest food and drink for heart and soul and mind;  
 he who de - stroy's our slav - er - y to sin;  
 that we may share your glo - ry that shall be;



the night the faith - ful mourn the weight of e - vil  
 the Lamb of God for sac - ri - fice pre - par - ing;  
 this night in - jus - tice joins its hand to trea - son's,  
 ac - cused of crime, to crim - i - nals be giv - en,  
 let us pass through these three dark nights of sor - row



where - by our sins the Son of Man be - tray.  
 sin brings a - bout the cure for sin's own ill.  
 and buys the ran - som - price of hu - man - kind.  
 that judg - ment on the righ - teous Judge be - gin.  
 to Eas - ter's laugh - ter and its lib - er - ty.

This text conveys well the paradox of despair and expectancy felt on Maundy Thursday. The somber repetition of "this night" here contrasts with and prepares for the joyful "this is the night" repeated in the *Exsultet*, the ancient Easter hymn at the lighting of the paschal candle.



# ON A BARREN HILLTOP

Capo 5: (Am) Dm (G) (Am) C Dm (C) (Am) F Dm (Dm) (Am) Gm Dm

1 On a bar - ren hill - top just out - side the walls  
 2 Test - ed just as we are, in a world of strife,  
 3 Let us then come bold - ly to the heaven - ly throne,

(C) F (G) C (Am) Dm (C) (Dm) F Gm

of an an - cient cit - y as the eve - ning falls,  
 through the pain and con - flict of a hu - man life,  
 where our hu - man weak - ness is so ful - ly known,

(G) C (Em) Am (Am) Dm (G) C (D) G (G) C

speaks a dy - ing fig - ure hang - ing on a tree,  
 here at last com - plet - ed with his fi - nal breath  
 and the mer - cy giv - en by which we are freed,

(Am) Dm (G) C (Em) Am (Dm) Gm (C) F (G) C (Am) Dm

say - ing "It is fin - ished," words of vic - to - ry.  
 is a life tri - um - phant o - ver sin and death.  
 and the grace pro - vid - ed for our time of need.

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

The first stanza of this text is based on John 19:17, 30 and the second and third stanzas on Hebrews 4:14-16. These passages and others provide the basis for the classic understanding of the atonement that sees Christ's redeeming work as a victory over all the powers of evil.

# 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?)

# 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.



Please join us for our  
***Livestream***  
**HOLY WEEK SERVICES:**

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**GOOD FRIDAY** *April 2*

**7 pm** ▪ **Pastor Patrice Fowler-Searcy**  
Livestream ▪ YouTube ▪ Facebook

**MUSIC FOR EASTER VIGIL** *April 3*

**7:00 pm**

*The Easter Proclamation - The Exsultet -  
an ancient hymn of triumph and rejoicing*  
YouTube ▪ Facebook

**EASTER SUNDAY** *April 4*

**8:45 am** ▪ **Pastor Heather Schoenewolf**

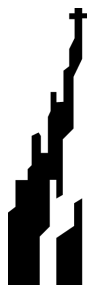
*an early Easter message*

Livestream ▪ YouTube ▪ Facebook ▪ Zoom  
[www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join)  
meeting ID 188 135 194

**11 am** ▪ **Pastor Randy Bush**

*preaching from the Gospel passage John 20:1-18*  
Livestream ▪ YouTube ▪ Facebook

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