



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 18, 2025 — NOON CHAPEL WORSHIP

PRELUDE

“Were You There?”

Craig Phillips
based on Glory to God #228
Dr. Edward Alan Moore, *piano*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennifer Karius

Leader: Jesus said if any of you want to be my disciples, take up the cross and follow me.

People: **Those who seek to save their lives will lose them, but those who give their lives for Christ’s sake will be saved.**

Leader: Let us cry out to God together:

People: **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 only hope. Amen.**

* **HYMN** (*verses 1 and 2; printed on page 8*)

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

REDHEAD 76

CENTERING PRAYER

Rev. BJ Woodworth

STATION 1: JESUS IS CONDEMNED

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Matthew 27:11-14, 24, 26b

Leader: Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so." But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed. . . So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this one’s blood; see to it yourselves." . . . and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Reflection: I know what it is to feel abandoned, to be treated unfairly. But I also know there have been times I stayed silent when others needed a voice. Have I ignored injustice because it was easier? Have I chosen comfort over courage?

When you hear the resonating sound, please read the unison prayer:

People: **Jesus, give me the strength to speak up even when it costs me. Help me to stand with those who are alone. Amen.**

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

STATION 2: JESUS ACCEPTS THE CROSS

Mary Alice Lightle

Matthew 27:27-31

Leader: Some of the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into their headquarters and called out the entire regiment. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him. They wove thorn branches into a crown and put it on his head, and they placed a reed stick in his right hand as a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mockery and taunted, “Hail! King of the Jews!” And they spit on him and grabbed the stick and struck him on the head with it. When they were finally tired of mocking him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him again. Then they led him away to be crucified.

Reflection: I struggle to accept, much less carry, my own burdens. I complain when life is inconvenient or painful. But others around me suffer quietly every day, and I don’t always see them.

When you hear the resonating sound, please read the unison prayer:

People: **Jesus, help me face life’s struggles. Give me your strength to carry what must be carried—and to help carry what others cannot. Amen.**

HYMN (*sing 3 times*)

“Live in Charity”

UBI CARITAS

Live in char-i - ty and stead - fast love.
U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,

Live in char-i - ty; God will dwell with you.
u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.

TEXT: Latin, 8th cent.; English trans. Taizé Community, 1991; © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
MUSIC (UBI CARITAS (Taizé), Irregular): Jacques Berthier, 1979; © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) OneLicense.net #A-700877

STATION 3: SIMON HELPS CARRY THE CROSS

Sam Studebaker

Mark 15:21

Leader: A passerby named Simon, who was from Cyrene was coming in from the countryside just then, and the soldiers compelled him to carry Jesus’ cross.

Reflection: Would I have helped? Or would I have looked away, too busy, too afraid? How often do I ignore the pain of others, convincing myself I can’t do anything?

When you hear the resonating sound, please read the unison prayer:

People: **Jesus, teach me to see the crosses others bear. Make me ready to help, even when it’s inconvenient. Amen.**

STATION 4: JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN

Doris Dick

Luke 23:27-31

Leader: A large crowd trailed behind, including many grief-stricken women. But Jesus turned and said to them, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are coming when they will say, ‘Fortunate indeed are the women who are childless, the wombs that have not borne a child and the breasts that have never nursed.’ People will beg the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and plead with the hills, ‘Bury us.’ For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Reflection: Have I truly wept over injustice? Have I looked inward and confessed the pain I’ve caused? Or have I been content with surface-level piety?

When you hear the resonating sound, please read the unison prayer:

People: **Jesus, help me see my part in the world’s suffering. Teach me to repent honestly and to live out that repentance in how I treat others. Amen.**

HYMN (*sing 3 times*)

“Stay with Me”

STAY WITH ME



TEXT: Taizé Community, 1982; © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
MUSIC (STAY WITH ME, Irregular): Jacques Berthier, 1982; © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

OneLicense.net #A-700877

STATION 5: JESUS IS STRIPPED

Rev. Dr. Henk Bossers

John 19:23-24

Leader: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided his clothes among the four of them. They also took his robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said, “Rather than tearing it apart, let’s throw dice for it.” This fulfilled the Scripture that says, “They divided my garments among themselves and threw dice for my clothing.”

Reflection: I want to follow Jesus, but not like this. I want to avoid humiliation, discomfort, risk. But Jesus shows us a different path—one of radical vulnerability and love.

When you hear the resonating sound, please read the unison prayer:

People: **Jesus, when I am tempted to turn away from suffering, give me the courage to journey through the hard and humbling places. Amen.**

STATION 6: JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS

Jennifer Karius

John 19:23-24a

Leader: They offered him wine drugged with myrrh, but he refused it. Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross. They divided his clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. A sign announced the charge against him. It read, "The King of the Jews." Two revolutionaries were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. The people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. "Ha! Look at you now!" they yelled at him. "You said you were going to destroy the Temple and rebuild it in three days. Well then, save yourself and come down from the cross!" The leading priests and teachers of religious law also mocked Jesus. "He saved others," they scoffed, "but he can't save himself! Let this Messiah, this King of Israel, come down from the cross so we can see it and believe him!" Even the men who were crucified with Jesus ridiculed him.

Reflection: I want to blame others for your death. But I know my own failures have hurt people too. I've been silent, selfish, complicit.

When you hear the resonating sound, please read the unison prayer:

People: **Jesus, help me face my sin—not with shame, but with honesty. Change me. Let your love transform me. Amen.**

HYMN (*verse 1*)

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ST. CHRISTOPHER

I Beneath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my
stand, the sha-dow of a mighty rock with-in a wear-y
land; a home with-in the wil-der-ness, a
rest up-on the way, from the burn-ing of the
noon-tide heat, and the bur-den of the day.

TEXT: Elizabeth Cecilia Douglas Clephane, 1868, alt.
MUSIC (ST. CHRISTOPHER 7.6.8.6.8.6): Frederick Charles Maker, 1881

STATION 7: JESUS CARES FOR HIS MOTHER

Michele Bossers

John 19:25-27

Leader: Standing near the cross were Jesus' mother, and his mother's sister, Mary (the wife of Clopas), and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother standing there beside the disciple he loved, he said to her, "Dear woman, here is your son." And he said to this disciple, "Here is your mother." And from then on, this disciple took her into his home.

Reflection: Even from the cross, Jesus sees his mother and entrusts her to the beloved disciple. In his final moments, Jesus offers love and care. Do I show that kind of care?

When you hear the resonating sound, please read the unison prayer:

People: **Jesus, teach me to love like you. Help me see the people around me not as strangers, but as family. Amen.**

STATION 8: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Rev. Woodworth

Mark 15:33-39

Leader: At noon, darkness fell across the whole land until three o'clock. Then at three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" Some of the bystanders misunderstood and thought he was calling for the prophet Elijah. One of them ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, holding it up to him on a reed stick so he could drink. "Wait!" he said. "Let's see whether Elijah comes to take him down!" Then Jesus uttered another loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. When the Roman officer who stood facing Jesus saw how he had died, he exclaimed, "This one truly was the Son of God!"

Reflection: It's over. Or so it seems. I want to believe it's not the end, that love is stronger than death, that God can still redeem even this. I've heard that God can redeem the worst acts of humanity. But this? What can come of this?

When you hear the resonating sound, please read the unison prayer:

People: **Jesus, help me trust when all feels lost. Let me grieve what's broken and still hope for what can rise again. Amen.**

HYMN (*printed on page 6*)

"Were You There"

WERE YOU THERE

FINAL WORDS

Rev. Dr. Diaz

Today, we have lingered in the shadow of sorrow, bearing witness to the unjust suffering of Christ. Amidst our heartache and our fear, we recall the words of Jesus in John 19:30 - "It is finished."

(The Bible is slammed shut to recall that the Word of God was slain and to symbolize the tomb being sealed.)

DEPART IN SILENCE



DONATIONS

Today's offering will support the Mission Board's work of justice in our community. Please remember to write your name on your offering envelope. You can also scan this QR code to give online or visit www.ELPC.church/donate.



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.

TEXT: African American spiritual

MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen

CCLI #689547

WERE YOU THERE

Irregular

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?)

Opt. 6 Were you there when he rose up from the dead?

Please remember to turn off cell phones during worship.

◆ **PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz
 Rev. BJ Woodworth
 Rev. Dr. Henk & Michele Bossers
 Doris Dick
 Jennifer Karius
 Mary Alice Lightle
 Sam Studebaker
 Matt Stufft

Musicians: Dr. Edward Alan Moore (he/him)
Director of Music & Arts

Cantors: Adrianna Cleveland
 David Jennings-Smith

Sound: Tim Benedict and Wayne Gaines

◆ **HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES**

Below is a listing of the remaining Holy Week and Easter Sunday services we are offering at ELPC.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

7:00 pm **Stations of the Cross Good Friday Service.** In Sanctuary.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20

8:45 am..... **Journey Worship.** Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz will preach at this communion service in the Social Hall.

A continental breakfast will be served in the Fellowship and Garth Overlook Rooms from 9:45-10:45 am.

11 am..... **Sanctuary Worship.** Our largest service, with music from the Chancel Choir and guest instrumentalists. Special music begins at 10:45 am. Rev. Dr. Michael Diaz will preach at this communion service.

◆ **WEEKDAY WORSHIP**

Taizé: Prayerful Song and Quiet Meditation

Chants and periods of meditative silence modeled after the Taizé community in France. Rev. BJ Woodworth leads this service in the Chapel.

Wednesdays, 7 pm

Prayer Room (in Highland Ave hallway)

Come to sit and pray in silence. Come to experience the quiet in the midst of the wonderful busyness.

Available everyday

GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE (VERSES 1 AND 2)

1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;
life ar - rained; O the worm - wood and the gall!

The second system of music continues the melody from the first system. It features similar rhythmic patterns and harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his
O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fer - ing,

The third system of music continues the melody. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The lyrics are printed below the staves.

Glory to God 220
TEXT: James Montgomery, 1820, 1825, alt.
MUSIC (REDHEAD 76 7.7.7.7.7): Richard Redhead, 1853