



GOOD FRIDAY

APRIL 14, 2017

**WATTS STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA**

GOOD FRIDAY
7:00 P.M.
APRIL 14, 2017

The congregation enters in silence.

The Meditation in Silence

Good Friday: day of the cross, day of suffering, day of hope, day of abandonment, day of victory, day of mourning, day of joy, day of endings, day of beginnings. . . . I closed my eyes and could see his sacred body. . . . I saw the immense suffering of humanity during the centuries: people killing each other; people dying from starvation and epidemics; people driven from their homes; people sleeping on the streets of large cities; people clinging to each other in desperation. . . all crying out with an anguished voice, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?”. . . [Then] with my minds’ eye, I saw large crowds of isolated, agonizing individuals walking away from the cross together, bound by the love they had seen with their own eyes and touched with their own lips. The cross of horror became the cross of hope, the tortured body became the body that gives new life; the gaping wound became the source of forgiveness, healing and reconciliation. – Henri Nouwen

Prelude: “O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded”.....S. Kirnberger

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: From the busy-ness of our lives we have come here on a day that is different.

People: In the midst of the world which holds the promise of spring and new life, we have come to share a story of betrayal and execution.

Minister: Come and hear the tale, come and share the tragedy, come and embrace the darkness.

People: God of Light, God of Shadow, keep us aware of your presence in the darkness, help us see meaning in this terrible story, and keep the fire of hope alive in our hearts.

Hymn 197: “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”..... ST. CHRISTOPHER

Silence

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Minister: Merciful God, we meet each other today at this cross as inhabitants of one world. As those who inflict wounds on each other: be merciful to us. As those who deny justice to others: be merciful to us.

People: As those who seize wealth: be merciful to us. As those who put others on trial: be merciful to us. As those afraid of this world's torment: be merciful to us.

Minister: Giver of life, we wait with you to bear hope to earth's darkest places. Where justice is destroyed: let righteousness rule. Where hope is crucified: let faith persist. Where war is rampant: let peace reign. Where truth is denied: let the struggle continue. Where sorrow lingers: let your light shine.

People: God, reach into this silent darkness with your love; deepen the terror of this moment into new hope; relieve the hideous cries with your voice of peace that here we may know your salvation, your glory, your future in Jesus Christ, the crucified Lord. Amen.

Silence

PROCLAIMING AND HEARING GOD'S WORD

The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to the Gospel of John (*see insert*)

Silence

Anthem: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" Hall H. Hopson (Text: See Hymn 195)

THE DARKNESS

The Removal of the Christ Candle

THE TOLLING

*The bell will toll 33 times, once for each year of Jesus' life.
After the tolling finishes, the congregation remains in silence.*

*After the silence, the lights will be raised
so the congregation can depart safely, in silence.*

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Evangelist: After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.

Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.

SILENCE

Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them,

Jesus: For whom are you looking?

Guard: Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus: I am he.

Evangelist: Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

Jesus: For whom are you looking?

Guard: Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus: I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go.

Evangelist: This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter,

Jesus: Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?

SILENCE

Jesus before the High Priest

Evangelist: So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.

First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Peter Denies Jesus

Evangelist: Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter,

Servant: You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?

Peter: I am not.

Evangelist: Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing round it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

SILENCE

The High Priest Questions Jesus

Evangelist: Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered,

Jesus: I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.

Evangelist: When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying,

Guard: Is that how you answer the high priest?

Jesus: If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?

Evangelist: Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

SILENCE

Peter Denies Jesus Again

Evangelist: Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him,

Servant: You are not also one of his disciples, are you?

Peter: I am not.

Evangelist: One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked,

Servant: Did I not see you in the garden with him?

Evangelist: Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

SILENCE

Jesus before Pilate

Evangelist: Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate went out to them and said,

Pilate: What accusation do you bring against this man?

Priest: If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.

Pilate: Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.

Priest: We are not permitted to put anyone to death.

Evangelist: This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die. Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

Pilate: Are you the King of the Jews?

Jesus: Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?

Pilate: I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?

Jesus: My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.

Pilate: So you are a king?

Jesus: You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.

Pilate: What is truth?

SILENCE

Jesus Sentenced to Death

Evangelist: After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them,

Pilate: I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?

People: Not this man, but Barabbas!

Evangelist: Now Barabbas was a bandit. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him and striking him on the face, saying,

Soldier: Hail, King of the Jews!

SILENCE

Evangelist: Pilate went out again and said to them,

Pilate: Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.

Evangelist: So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them,

Pilate: Here is the man!

Evangelist: When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted,

People: Crucify him! Crucify him!

Pilate: Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.

Priest: We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.

Evangelist: Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus,

Pilate: Where are you from?

Evangelist: But Jesus gave him no answer.

Pilate: Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?

Jesus: You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.

Evangelist: From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out,

People: If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.

Evangelist: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew

Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews,

Pilate: Here is your King!

People: Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!

Pilate: Shall I crucify your King?

Priest: We have no king but the emperor.

Evangelist: Then Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

SILENCE

The Crucifixion of Jesus

Evangelist: So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate,

Priest: Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."

Pilate: What I have written I have written.

Evangelist: When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another,

Soldier: Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.

Evangelist: This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." And that is what the soldiers did.

SILENCE

Evangelist: Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother,

Jesus: Woman, here is your son.

Evangelist: Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus: Here is your mother.

Evangelist: And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture),

Jesus: I am thirsty.

Evangelist: A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said,

Jesus: It is finished.

Evangelist: Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

SILENCE

Jesus' Side Is Pierced

Evangelist: Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

The Burial of Jesus

Evangelist: After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

SILENCE