

# Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church

**GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE SERVICE**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**7:00pm**



**Good Friday**  
**Tenebrae Service- A Service of Darkness**  
**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Prelude**

**\*The Call to Worship**

Minister: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

**Congregation: O, my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.**

M: In you, our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

**C: To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**

M: From the busy-ness of our lives we have come here on a day that is different. In the midst of the world which holds the promise of spring and new life, we have come to enter the story when hope all but seems lost and death nearly victorious.

**Hymn:**

*What Wondrous Love is This?*

**\*Unison Prayer for Good Friday**

Holy God, we admit that we struggle with this day. We struggle with Good Friday for three reasons. First, no one likes to see another suffer. On this day we are face to face with the cross, and your suffering is hard for us to bear. Second, the pain of this day reminds us of the pain of past and present days, and our own pain is hard for us to bear. Third, we are reminded of the suffering we cast onto others, which means we have to confront the pain we have caused you.

*Silent Confession*

So, forgive us for skirting around the edges of this day. Forgive us for averting our eyes and avoiding the sinking feeling in our chests. Forgive us for distracting ourselves from the hurt and forgive us for the ways in which we add to the suffering of this world. We do not like to be here — a place of grief and despair – at the foot of the cross. And yet, here we are, and thankfully you are, too. Help us to enter this place and may your mercy flood our hearts – even here. Amen.

**Musical Offering:**

*Lenten Medley*

Lisa Addington, hand bells

**A Service of Darkness**

**Reading One**

**John 19:1-5**

*So Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers, having braided a crown from thorns, set it on his head, threw a purple robe over him, and approached him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they greeted him with slaps in the face.*

*Pilate went back out again and said to them, "I present him to you, but I want you to know that I do not find him guilty of any crime." Just then Jesus came out wearing the thorn crown and purple robe.*

*Pilate announced, "Here he is: the Man."*

***Betrayed, Rejected, Condemned***

Choir

**Reading Two**

**John 19:6-11**

*When the high priests and police saw him, they shouted in a frenzy, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate told them, "You take him. You crucify him. I find nothing wrong with him."*

*The Jews answered, "We have a law, and by that law he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God."*

*When Pilate heard this, he became even more scared. He went back into the palace and said to Jesus, "Where did you come from?"*

*Jesus gave no answer.*

*Pilate said, "You won't talk? Don't you know that I have the authority to pardon you, and the authority to—crucify you?"*

*Jesus said, "You haven't a shred of authority over me except what has been given you from heaven. That's why the one who betrayed me to you has committed a far greater fault."*

### ***Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs***

Choir

#### **Reading Three**

**John 19:12-19**

*At this, Pilate tried his best to pardon him, but the Jews shouted him down: "If you pardon this man, you're no friend of Caesar's. Anyone setting himself up as 'king' defies Caesar."*

*When Pilate heard those words, he led Jesus outside. He sat down at the judgment seat in the area designated Stone Court (in Hebrew, Gabbatha). It was the preparation day for Passover. The hour was noon. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your king."*

*They shouted back, "Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!"*

*Pilate said, "I am to crucify your king?"*

*The high priests answered, "We have no king except Caesar."*

*Pilate caved in to their demand. He turned him over to be crucified.*

#### **Homily**

#### ***What Are We to Make of Good Friday?***

***Rev. Dr. Stephen Wilson***

#### **Reading Four**

**John 19:20-22**

*Many of the Jews read the sign because the place where Jesus was crucified was right next to the city. It was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. The Jewish high priests objected. "Don't write," they said to Pilate, "'The King of the Jews.' B Make it, 'This man said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'"*

*Pilate said, "What I've written, I've written."*

### ***God So Loved the World***

Lisa Addington, Jo VanMeter, Lisa Boynton, George Lepsch

#### **Reading Five**

**John 19:23-27**

*When they crucified him, the Roman soldiers took his clothes and divided them up four ways, to each soldier a fourth. But his robe was seamless, a single piece of weaving, so they said to each other, "Let's not tear it up. Let's throw dice to see who gets it." This confirmed the Scripture that said,*

*“They divided up my clothes among them and threw dice for my coat.” (The soldiers validated the Scriptures!)*

*While the soldiers were looking after themselves, Jesus’ mother, his aunt, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her. He said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” Then to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother.*

***There is No Greater Love Than This***  
**Choir**

**Reading Six**

**John 19:28-30**

*Jesus, seeing that everything had been completed so that the Scripture record might also be complete, then said, “I’m thirsty.”*

*A jug of sour wine was standing by. Someone put a sponge soaked with the wine on a javelin and lifted it to his mouth. After he took the wine, Jesus said, “It’s done . . . complete.” Bowing his head, he offered up his spirit.*

**\*Closing Hymn**

***Were You There?***

**\*Dismissal in Silence**

**\*Postlude**

***Jesus, Remember Me***

# 314 What Wondrous Love Is This

*Praise be to the Lord, for He showed His wonderful love to me. Psalm 31:21*

Unison

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2. When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When  
 3. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; To  
 4. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; And

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is  
 I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, When I was sink-ing  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing. To God and to the  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm

this That caused the Lord of bliss To bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 down Be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side His crown for my  
 Lamb Who is the great "I AM," While mil-lions join the theme, I will  
 free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, And thro' e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing

soul, for my soul, To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul.  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side His crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on, And thro' e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on.

# 228

## 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

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

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The lyrics are: "there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (Were you there when they pierced him in the side? (Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine? (Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (Were you". The music features a series of chords and single notes, with a long note in the final measure of each staff.