

Good Friday Worship
April 2, 2021
12:00noon

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome - Dan Koger

Prelude“El Shaddai” *with* “O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”Arr. Carol Tornquist
Joan John, piano

Call to Worship.....Dan Koger and Kim Miller

We have been here before – a place of grieving and mourning.

We have been here before – a day that seems it won’t end.

We have been here before – knee deep in fear, knee deep in doubt.

We have been here before – Good Friday, the day Christ died.

So once again, we find ourselves here – in community, in God’s arms.

Where else would we go when the world falls apart? Let us worship holy God.

Hymn “What Wondrous Love is This?”

Churchland Baptist Quartet

What wondrous love is this

O my soul, O my soul,

What wondrous love is this

O my soul.

What wondrous love is this that

Caused the Lord of bliss to

Bear the dreadful curse

For my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

When I was sinking down,

Sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down

Sinking down;

When I was sinking down

Beneath God’s righteous frown,

Christ laid aside his crown

For my soul, for my soul

Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

And when from death I’m free

I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,

And when from death I’m free

I’ll sing on!

And when from death I’m free,

I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

“The Seven Last Words of Christ” (with meditations)

“Father, forgive them...” (Luke 23:34) - Cydney Cavender

We have all been sinned against. We have all been affected by evil in this world. But none more than you, Lord. Our pain never compare to yours, and yet despite the pain we caused you, you entered into our pain to experience the consequences of our evil from your perspective. You suffered and died. When we taunted you and mocked you, you gave us your forgiveness. You, the victim, gave forgiveness without asking for anything in return. We always expect to receive forgiveness before we give it. But you gave before we asked. Instead of demanding that we beg for your forgiveness, you have us your forgiveness. Help us to learn to give forgiveness to those who have hurt us. Help us to see first to give and then receive, not receive before we give. When we do this, we will find healing for ourselves.

“Today, you will be with me in paradise” (Luke 23:43) - Larry Frey

Gracious God, we acknowledge that we have all sinned. We all fall short of your glory. If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves, and, we deceive you. We have joint responsibility for the consequences of sin in this world. For all the pain and the suffering. For all the injustice. We have deliberately hurt others and you. We have also contributed to the pain and suffering by our silence. but not speaking out, and by not doing enough to stop the suffering. Like the thief on the cross next to you, we cry out to you for forgiveness and, even though we don't deserve your love and forgiveness, you give it to us. Help us to accept your forgiveness – your gift of grace given freely to us. Help us to enter into the experience of forgiveness that you promised the thief.

“Woman, behold your son...” (John 19:26) - Deana Otwell-Clinton

We are all equal as we stand before the cross. Your arms, Lord, stretched out, link us all. It joins me to each other person who stands before you, and, joins them to me. We are responsible for each other. As you gave Mary to John, you call us to give ourselves to each other. Help us to accept this responsibility, especially to my neighbors and those who live in my community. As we accept responsibility for one another, and begin to reach out to one another, please bring healing and reconciliation among us. Among us all.

Anthem“Lamb of God”

*Churchland Baptist Quartet;
Joan John, Piano; Stephanie Fisher, Flute*

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46) - Dan Koger

God of steadfast love, so often it feels as if you have abandoned us. When we look around at the pain and the suffering in this world, we wonder if you are in control. And yet we know, Lord, that as you abandoned Jesus on the cross for that moment that he became our sin, you embraced all of creation with your love and forgiveness. In this moment, the community that was broken was restored through God the Creator, the Son the Redeemer, and the Spirit, the Sustainer. Your brokenness brought about our wholeness, our restoration. In that moment of darkness, your light continued to shine through. May your light shine in our darkness. May you bring wholeness in our brokenness. May we begin to see you for who you really are – a God so committed to healing that you took all the pain and suffering upon yourself and destroyed its’ power to destroy us.

“I am thirsty...” (John 19:28) - Shirley Lauer

As you thirsted on the cross, we thirst for more of you in our lives. Your thirst shows us how much you longed for us to be restored. You were willing to engage our sin to such an extent. Help us, Lord, to be willing to enter into the pain and anguish of those around us to the same extent. It is so easy for us simply to observe from a distance. We give handouts and donations so easily, but we are not willing to experience their thirst as you experienced ours. We thirst for you, Lord, and we thirst to love as you have loved. We need more than just our daily bread, we need your kingdom to reign in our lives. To transform us. To heal us. So that we can bring healing and transformation to others.

“It is finished...” (John 19:30) - Richard Francis

Thank you that the goal has been reached. That the work of salvation is complete. Thank you that your kingdom has come and that we can begin to partake of that Kingdom. Thank you that there is nothing more that we can do. You have done it all. Help us not to take this gift for granted, Lord. Help us to live the Kingdom and bring about your kingdom wherever we are and wherever we go.

“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit...” (Luke 23:46) - Kim Miller

When we realize that there is nothing more we can do, we too, like Jesus, commit ourselves into your hands. We commit ourselves to your perfect community. Thank you that through the gift of your Son’s life, creation is restored. What was in the beginning in now and always will be. Our community with you is restored, and through that, all community can be restored. Help us to be agents of restoration as we commit ourselves to your perfect community. Help us to bring that community here. We give ourselves to you completely knowing that only in you can we find wholeness and healing. We hand our family, our friends, our community, our church – we hand all of these to you – knowing that only in you can our world find wholeness and healing. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hymn“To Mock Your Reign”
Churchland Baptist Quartet

*To mock your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns;
Set you with taunts along the road from which no one returns.
They could not know, as we do now, how glorious is that crown;*

That thorns would flower upon your brow, your sorrows heal our own.

*In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord, they snatched a purple cloak;
Your passion turned, for all they cared, into a soldier's joke.
They could not know, as we do now, that though we merit blame,
You will your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame.*

*A sceptered reed, O patient Lord, they thrust into your hand,
And acted out their grim charade to its appointed end.
They could not know, as we do now, though empires rise and fall,
Your kingdom shall not cease to grow till love embraces all.*

Call to Confession.....Dan Koger

In many ways, we try to avoid Good Friday. We try to avoid the confrontation and the hurt We try to tiptoe past this painful day...and go straight to the empty tomb.

But you and I both know, there is no resurrection without crucifixion. There are no flowers without the rain, there is no love without a little heartache. It's cliché; but in this case, it's true.

So, I invite you to join me in the prayer of confession. Pray with me. . .

Prayer of Confession.....Kim Miller and Dan Koger

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 cause others, which means we have to confront the pain we have caused you. 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 is where we are.

So forgive us, and then use us for your good. Gratefully we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness.....Kim Miller

Sisters and brothers, even on this day, even at the foot of the cross, even here, even now, Christ is saying, "Forgive them. They know not what they do." We often don't feel that we deserve this grace, but we receive it nonetheless. Say these words aloud with me, and trust that they belong to you:

In my best and worst moments, I am a Child of God. Nothing can separate me from that truth, not even death. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Anthem“And No Bird Sang”
Churchland Baptist Quartet

Affirmation of Faith.....Dan Koger and Kim Miller

We believe in the long night of the soul – the spaces and times when despair weighs on us like a blanket. We believe those seasons of life are real,

And that each and every one of us experiences them.

We refuse to believe that pain and suffering hold the last word; for we believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who was betrayed and bloodied, so many years ago.

And, we believe that his life story didn’t stop there.

So, while we are here, again, at the foot of the cross, knee deep in despair, and face to face with pain, we profess:

We believe in the sunrise. We believe in the power of gathering together. We believe that phone calls and hugs can make a difference. We believe that life is not fair, but is overflowing with love. We believe that we cannot go this path alone. We believe that even here, even on this day, God is drawing near. Amen.

Benediction.....Dan Koger

As we walk from Good Friday into the eve of Easter, remind us – in death, in resurrection, in joy and grief, in the unknown and the liminal space between, you are still our God, and we are still your people. Resurrection will indeed come. Amen.

Postlude.....“What Wondrous Love is This”Appalachian Folk Hymn
Joan John, Piano

Worship Leaders

Dan Koger, Pastor

Kim Miller, Minister for Families and Social Media

Joan John, Pianist

Robin Duncan, Director of Music

Quartet

Shirley Lauer Hunter Turner Wilson Turner Tom Ullom