



*Good Friday*  
*A Service of Darkness*

April 7, 2023, 7:30pm  
St. Paul United Methodist Church  
Louisville, KY

PRELUDE

*Absoute*

E. Gigout

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

So they took Jesus, and he went out carrying his own cross, to the place of a skull, called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

**There they crucified him.**

This is not a day for mourning, but for awe, wonder, love, and gratitude.

**Let all who bow in reverence, praise Him. Let all sons and daughters of faith stand in awe.**

\*HYMN 298 *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 an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

UNISON PRAYER

**God, Our Savior, you gave us your beloved Son, Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth; you abandoned him to the agony of the cross, so that the abandoned people of the world might have life. Lift our hearts and bring us together beneath the cross, ready to leave behind our sin and fear, confident in the grace that brings us into your abiding love, for you will prevail and death itself will die. In the name of the crucified, on whose victory is life, Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

*Lenten Contemplation*

J. Shippey

Chancel Choir

COMMUNION: Words of Institution

All are welcome to kneel at the rail for communion any time during the service of Tenebrae until the eleventh reading. Please hold up open palms when you are ready to receive the elements and a pastor will serve you.

*Ah, Holy Jesus*

arr. H. Dean Wagner

Bells of St. Paul Handbell Ensemble; Lori Elbert, violin

## THE OFFICE OF TENEBRAE (Service of Darkness)

**Jesus is Betrayed and Arrested** John 18:1-11

*Choral Response: 'Tis midnight, and on Olive's brow the star is dimmed that lately shone; 'tis midnight in the garden now. The suffering Savior prays alone. 'Tis midnight, and from heavenly plains is borne the song that angels know, unheard by mortals are the strains that sweetly soothe the Savior's woe.*

**Jesus Before the High Priest** John 18:12-14

**Peter's Denial** John 18:15-18, 25-27

**The High Priest Questions Jesus** John 18:19-24

*Choral Response: Ah, Holy Jesus, how hast thou offended, that we to judge thee have in hate pretended? By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted! Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee? Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee! 'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.*

**Jesus is Taken to Pilate** John 18:28-32

**Jesus' Trial Before Pilate** John 18:33-38

**Jesus is Sentenced to Death** John 19:1-16

*Choral Response: O Sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, now scornfully surrounded with thorns thine only crown: how pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish, which once was bright as morn?*

**The Crucifixion** John 19:17-22

**They Cast Lots for His Clothes** John 19:23-24

*Choral Response: 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. 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 life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.*

**Jesus Provides for His Mother** John 19:25-27

## **Jesus Dies**

John 19:28-30

Choral Response: O love divine, what hast thou done!  
The immortal God hath died for me!  
The Father's coeternal Son bore all my sins upon the tree.  
The immortal God for me hath died: my Lord, my love is crucified.

## **Jesus' Side is Pierced**

John 19:31-37

## **Jesus is Buried**

John 19:39-42

HYMN Were You There?

Stanza 1: Solo

\*Stanzas 2 and 3: Congregation and Choir

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

## **The Extinguishing of the Light and the Final Word**

\*\*\* Let us leave in silence. \*\*\*

Our readers for this evening (in order of appearance):

Graeme Donovan, Ethan Norman, Cyres McCay, Cathy Miller, Kayla Martin, Niamh Lutes, Angie Dortch, Allan Sewell, Julia Mitchell, Bruce Elbert, Georganna Dunn, Darren Brandon, Laura Blankenbaker