

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LANSING



Christ before Caiaphas, Matthias Stomer, ca 1630-1639

510 W. Ottawa Street ▪ Lansing, Michigan 48933

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Church Office Hours (M-F) 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

# SERVICE OF LAMENT

March 29, 2024 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service

## WELCOME

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

## PRELUDE

Sergei Kvitko

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

Leader: We come to worship praying for the strength to be a witness for Christ.

**People: How do we go on singing?**

Leader: Even in your suffering, you forgive and you uplift the oppressed, eyes raised to heaven.

**People: Like the thief beside you, we long to be with you in glory.  
For your assurance, we give you praise.**

## OPENING HYMN

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

GTG #213

*Like Isaac Watt's "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", this hymn is a reflection on Galatians 6:14, but this text is more abstract and devotes no attention to the person hanging on the cross. The tune is names for a soloist in the composer's Connecticut choir.*

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Confident in God's grace, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**People: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and soul and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news! Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is

a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Believe the good news of the gospel: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## INVITATION TO GIVE

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*"I Want Jesus To Walk With Me" arr Norah Duncan*

Chancel Choir

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Psalm 22:1-11, 21-31

<sup>1</sup> My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? <sup>2</sup> O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. <sup>3</sup> Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup> In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. <sup>5</sup> To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame. <sup>6</sup> But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the All. <sup>7</sup> All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; <sup>8</sup> "Commit your cause to the Lord; I let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!" <sup>9</sup> Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. <sup>10</sup> On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God. <sup>11</sup> Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

<sup>21</sup> Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. <sup>22</sup> I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: <sup>23</sup> You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! <sup>24</sup> For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. <sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. <sup>26</sup> The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! <sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. <sup>28</sup> For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. <sup>29</sup> To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. <sup>30</sup> Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, <sup>31</sup> and proclaim his deliverance to all yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

## HYMN

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

GTG #221

*This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.**

### THE PASSION OF CHRIST

Leader: A reading from the Gospel according to John.

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kirdon 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. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them,

Jesus: "Whom are you looking for?"

Leader: They answered,

CHOIR: "Jesus of Nazareth."

Leader: Jesus replied,

Jesus: "I am he."

Leader: 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: "Whom are you looking for?"

Leader: They answered,

**MEN: "Jesus of Nazareth."**

Leader: Jesus answered,

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

Leader: This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." The 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?"

Leader: So the soldiers, their officer, and the religious authorities 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 them that it was better to have one person die for the people.

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 bought Peter in. The woman said to Peter,

**WOMEN:** *"You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?"*

Leader: He said,

**MEN:** **"I am not."**

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

Then the high priest questions 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 people 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,"

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

**ALL:** **“Is that how you answer the high priest?”**

Leader: Jesus answered,

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

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

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

***WOMEN:*** ***“You are not also one of his disciples, are you?”***

Leader: He denied it and said,

***MEN:*** ***“I am not.”***

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

***WOMEN:*** ***“Did I not see you in the garden with him?”***

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

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,

CHOIR: “What accusation do you bring against this man?”

Leader: They answered,

**ALL:** **“If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”**

Leader: Pilate said to them,

CHOIR: “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.”

Leader: They replied,

CHOIR: "We are not permitted to put anyone to death."

Leader: (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

## CHORAL ANTHEM

*"Lacymosa" W.A. Mozart*

Chancel Choir

Leader: Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him,

**ALL:** **"Are you the King of the Jews?"**

Leader: Jesus answered,

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

Leader: Pilate replied,

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

Leader: Jesus answered,

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 authorities. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here."

Leader: Pilate asked him,

**WOMEN:** **"So you are a king?"**

Leader: Jesus answered,

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."

Leader: Pilate asked him,

CHOIR: "What is truth?"

Leader: After he had said this, he went to the people again and told them,

**MEN:** "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?"

Leader: They shouted in reply,

**ALL:** **"Not this man, but Barabbas!"**

Leader: 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 saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them.

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

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

CHOIR: "Here is the man!"

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

**ALL:** **Crucify him! Crucify him!**

Leader: Pilate said to them,

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

Leader: They answered him,

**ALL:** **"We have a law, and according to that law he out to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."**

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



CHOIR: "Where are you from?"

Leader: But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him

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

Leader: Jesus answered him,

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

Leader: From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the people cried out,

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

Leader: 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 people,

CHOIR: "Here is your King!"

Leader: They cried out,

**MEN: "Away with him!**

**WOMEN: *Away with him!***

**ALL: Crucify him!**

Leader: Pilate asked them,

CHOIR: "Shall I crucify your King?"

Leader: The chief priests answered,

**MEN: "We have no king but the emperor."**

Leader: Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

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 people 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 said to Pilate,

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

Leader           Pilate answered,

CHOIR:           "What I have written I have written."

Leader:           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,

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

Leader:           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.

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."

Leader:           Then he said to the disciple,

Jesus:           "Here is your mother."

Leader:           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 fulfil the scripture),

Jesus: "I am thirsty."

Leader: 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."

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

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

### **STRIPPING OF PARAMENTS**

Members of the Congregation

*They Crucified My Lord*

*Fred Lowe, Bass soloist*

### **EXTINGUISHING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Rev. Stanley Jenkins

*We exit in silence.*