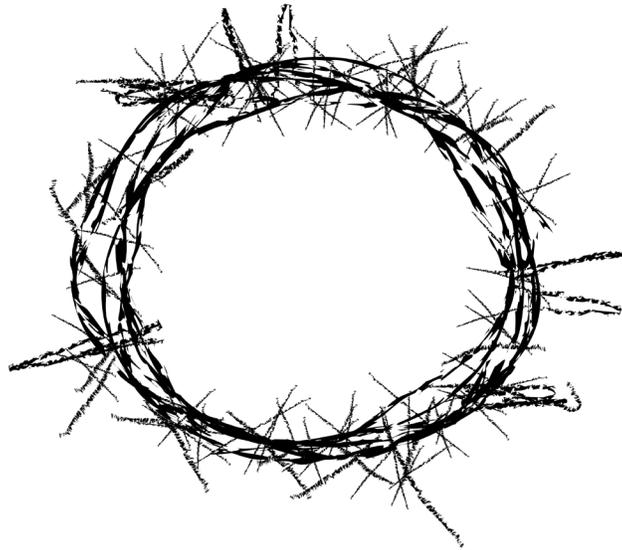


*Welcome Home To Your Sunshine Cathedral*



*A Positive Worship Experience  
America's Queer Church for All*



*Good Friday Tenebrae  
Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021*

# Good Friday

## **Prelude**

*O Nata Lux*  
By Lauridsen  
Performed By Barbara Ramcharitar

## **Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Rev Dr Durrell Watkins

## **First Reading**

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

Jesus left the city and went to the Mount of Olives. His followers went with him. (Jesus went there often). He said to his followers, "Pray for strength against temptation."

Then Jesus went about a stone's throw away from them. He kneeled down and prayed, "Abba, if it is what you want, then let me not have this cup of suffering..."

Then an angel from heaven appeared to him to help him.

Jesus was full of pain; he prayed even more. Sweat dripped from his face as if he were bleeding. When he finished praying, he went to his followers. They were asleep. (Their sadness had made them very tired). Jesus said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray for strength against temptation."

### *Everything Must Change*

By Bernard Ighner - Performed by Tara Sperry

## **Second Reading**

Rev Dr Durrell Watkins

While Jesus was speaking, a crowd came up. One of the 12 apostles was leading them. He was Judas. He came close to Jesus so that he could kiss him.

But Jesus said to him, "Judas, are you using the kiss to give me to my enemies?"

The followers of Jesus were standing there too. They saw what was happening. They said to Jesus, "Lord, should we use our swords?"

And one of them did use his sword. He cut off the right ear of someone in the arresting party.

Jesus said, "Stop!" Then he ministered to the wounded person.

Those who came to arrest Jesus were told by Jesus, "Why did you come out here with swords and clubs? Do you really think I am a criminal? I was with you every day in the Temple. Why didn't you try to arrest me there? But this is your time—under the cover of darkness."

### *Absence of Fear*

By Jewel Kilcher - Performed by Tara Sperry

## **Third Reading**

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

They arrested Jesus and took him away. Peter followed them, but he did not go near Jesus. The soldiers started a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat together. Peter sat with them. A peasant girl saw Peter sitting there near the light. She looked closely at Peter's face and said, "This man was also with him!"

But Peter said this was not true. He denied even knowing Jesus.

A short time later, another person saw Peter and said, "You are also one of them."

But Peter said, "Sir, I am not!"

About an hour later, another man insisted, "It is true! This man was with him. He is from Galilee!"

But Peter said, "Man, I don't know what you are talking about!"

Immediately, while Peter was still speaking, a rooster crowed.

Then the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. And Peter remembered that Jesus had said: "Before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you don't know me."

Then Peter went outside and cried with much pain in his heart.

### *When Life Gets Broken*

By Matt Hybarger and Michael O'Brien - Performed by Sara Burns

**Fourth Reading**

Rev Dr Durrell Watkins & Rev Dr Anne Atwell

Jesus was taken to Pilate. They began to accuse Jesus. They told Pilate, "We caught this man telling people that we should not pay taxes to Caesar. He calls himself a king."

Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of your people?"

Jesus answered, "I am."

Pilate said to the accusers, "I find nothing wrong with this man."

They said again and again, "But Jesus is making trouble with the people! He teaches all around Judea. He began in Galilee, and now he is here!"

Pilate said, "Galilee? That's Herod's jurisdiction."

Herod was in Jerusalem at that time; so Pilate sent Jesus to him.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. He had heard about Jesus and had wanted to meet him for a long time. Herod was hoping to see Jesus work a miracle. Herod asked Jesus many questions, but Jesus said nothing. Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus. They dressed him in a royal robe and then sent him back to Pilate.

Pilate called all the people together and said to them, "You brought this man to me. You said that he was making trouble among the people. But I have questioned him and I have not found him guilty. Also, Herod found nothing wrong with him; he sent him back to us. Look, he has done nothing worthy of execution. So, after I have him beaten, I will let him go free."

But the people shouted, "Kill him! Let Barabbas go free!" (Barabbas was a man who was in prison because he started a riot in the city. He was guilty of murder).

Pilate wanted to release Jesus. So he told this to the crowd. But they shouted again, "Kill him! Kill him!"

A third time Pilate said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done? I can find no reason to kill him. So I will just have him beaten and released."

But they continued to shout that Jesus should be killed.

Pilate decided to give them what they wanted. Pilate let Barabbas go free and sentenced Jesus to death.

*If the World Should End*

By Bono and The Edge - Performed by Sara Burns

**Fifth Reading**

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

The soldiers led Jesus away. At that time, there was a man coming into the city from the fields. His name was Simon, and he was from the city of Cyrene. The soldiers forced Simon to carry Jesus' cross and walk behind him. A large crowd of people was following Jesus. Some of the women were sad and crying. But Jesus turned and said to them, "Women of Jerusalem, don't cry for me. Cry for yourselves and for the future."

**Offering**

**Offertory**

*Prelude Op. 28, No. 20 in C Minor... Frederic Chopin*

Performed by Edwin Neimann

**Sixth Reading**

Rev Dr Durrell Watkins

There were also two criminals led out with Jesus to be killed. Jesus and the two criminals were taken to a place called the Skull. There the soldiers nailed Jesus to his cross. They also nailed the criminals to their crosses, one beside Jesus on the right and the other beside Jesus on the left. Jesus prayed, "Forgive them. They don't know what they are doing."

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Performed by Barbara Ramcharitar & Edwin Neimann

**Seventh Reading**

Rev Dr Anne Atwell and Rev Dr Durrell Watkins

The soldiers threw lots to decide who would get Jesus' clothes. The people stood there watching. The leaders made fun of Jesus. They said, "If he is God's Anointed, then let him save himself. He helped other people, didn't he?"

Even the soldiers made fun of him. They came to Jesus and offered him some vinegar. They said, "If you are a king, save yourself!" (At the top of the cross was written: "THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS" - which was the charge against him, the charge of sedition...he was accused of trying to establish a government without the empire's approval).

One of the criminals began to shout insults at Jesus: "Aren't you the messiah? Then save yourself! And save us too!"

But the other criminal stopped him. He said, "You should show some respect! You are getting the same punishment as he is. We are punished for crimes we committed, but this man has done nothing wrong!" Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your glory!"

And Jesus said to him, "Today you will be with me in paradise!"

*The Rose*

By Amanda McBroom - Performed by Sara Burns

**Eighth Reading**

Rev Dr Anne Atwell

It was about noon, and the whole land became dark until three o'clock in the afternoon. There was no sun! The curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces. Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Abba, I give you my life." After Jesus said this, he died.

The army officer there saw what happened. He praised God, saying, "I know this was a good man!"

Many people had gathered there to watch this thing. When they saw what happened, they returned home very sad. Those who were close friends of Jesus were there. Some were women who had followed Jesus from Galilee. They all stood far away from the cross and watched.

*Still My Son*

By Pepper Choplin - Performed by Sara Burns

