

**Good Friday Worship on April 7, 2023** (CCLI: License Number #3156883)  
(Welcoming Elder: Robert Revington)

**Good Friday Sunday Order of worship**

- Responsive Call to worship
- Praise song – BOP 231 When I survey the wondrous cross
- Opening Prayer
- Sung response – BOP 525 Behold, the Lamb of God
- First Reading: Matthew 26:57-66
- Unison Prayer
- Sung response – BOP 525 Behold, the Lamb of God
- Second Reading: Matthew 26:69-75
- Unison Prayer
- Sung response – BOP 525 Behold, the Lamb of God
- Third Reading: Matthew 27:1-2, 11-24
- Hymn 239 O sacred head (Vs. 1-2)
- Fourth Reading: Matthew 27:27-40
- Unison Prayer
- Sung response – BOP 547 Lord have mercy upon us
- Fifth Reading: Matthew 27:45-51, 54
- Unison Prayer
- Hymn – BOP 237 O come and mourn with me awhile (seated)
- Sixth Reading: Matthew 27:55-61
- Words of Reflection:
- Unison Prayer
- Closing Hymn – BOP 238 Beneath the cross of Jesus
- Benediction

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**Responsive Call to Worship**

Come, and watch with me awhile.

**We come to stand by the cross.**

Come, and pray with me awhile.

**We come to stand with Jesus.**

Come, and mourn with me awhile.

**We come to weep for Jesus.**

Come to proclaim ‘God’s victory remains with love.’

**We come to open our hearts for Jesus, the Crucified.**

**Suggested Hymn: BOP 231 When I survey the wondrous Cross**

**Opening Prayer**

Lord God, Lover of us all, we humble ourselves in your presence now, knowing that you changed the world on this day. Through the Cross of Christ, you invite us to turn from despair to

hope, from brokenness to wholeness, from death to life. We are humbled by the deep love of Jesus, which led him to give himself over to powers that stand against you and against us on this awesome, awful day. With hearts filled with wonder, and moved to tears, we praise you for such amazing grace that offers us the freedom to live in hope as we live in Christ.

**Sung response: BOP 525 Behold, the Lamb of God**

**First Reading: Matthew 26.57-66**

*Keep silence for 20-30 seconds before leading in the prayer*

**Unison Prayer:**

**Jesus, you stood silent before false accusers. Justice was blind that day, blind to the lies and the desires of the powerful to have their way. If we were there, would we have spoken up in your defense? Strengthen our hearts this day so we will always stand up for the truth. Amen.**

**Sung Response: BOP 525 Behold the Lamb of God**

**Second Reading: Matthew 26.69-75**

*Keep silence for 20-30 seconds before leading in the prayer*

**Unison Prayer:**

**Jesus Christ, we hate to think that we would desert you if we felt singled out, if people ever challenged us about our faith in you. On this day when we see your commitment to us cost you everything, deepen our commitment to you. Strengthen us whenever we are tempted to deny you in our words or our in actions.**

**Sung Response: BOP 525 Behold the Lamb of God**

**Third Reading: Matthew 27.1-2, 11-24**

*Keep silence for 20-30 seconds before announcing the hymn*

**Hymn BOP 239 O sacred head (verses 1-2)**

**Fourth Reading: Matthew 27.27-40**

*Keep silence for 20-30 seconds before leading in the prayer*

**Unison Prayer:**

**Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us. People mock you and we do not know what to say. People curse with your name and we say nothing. We watch others carry the cross for you but we draw back at shouldering more responsibility for your sake. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Sung response: BOP 547 Lord, have mercy upon us**

**Fifth Reading: Matthew 27.45-51, 54**

*Keep silence for 20-30 seconds before leading in the prayer*

**Unison Prayer**

**Jesus, it is hard to stand by and watch you die. The taunts pierce our hearts like the nails. We cannot imagine the pain. Today it feels as if we are there, watching, waiting, weeping. When the darkness of pain overshadows us, help us remember that you know our pain better than anyone else. Amen**

**Hymn BOP 237 O come and mourn with me awhile (seated)**

**Sixth Reading Matthew 27.55-61**

**Words of Reflection:**

Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph saw where the body was laid. The women watched from a distance, concerned about their friend, distressed by his death, yet hesitant. What could they do?

Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the temple council and a follower of Jesus. He sought Jesus' body from Pontius Pilate – because he wanted to give Jesus a decent burial? Or did he want to be finished with Jesus once and for all? He rolled the stone in front of the tomb. Then what did he do?

Pilate, the politician. Trying to satisfy everyone. If only Jesus had been more reasonable. If only his enemies had been less vindictive. Release the body? Why not? What harm can it do? What harm can I do now?

We watch. We wonder. We wait. What will we do next?

**Unison Prayer:**

**Jesus, to be God's Son is to carry the weight of God's world on your shoulders. No wonder it felt like you were alone in the world. You carry the weight of our sin and sorrow, our failure and frailty. Whenever our eyes take in the cross, help us remember your great love at the heart of our loneliness. May the arms of the Cross, your arms, embrace us and keep us steadfast.**

**Closing Hymn: BOP 238 Beneath the cross of Jesus**

**Benediction**