



*The mission of GPPC is to embody God's love  
by cultivating community, practicing hope, repairing harm, and doing justice as Jesus did.*

April 13, 2024

Palm Sunday / The Passion of the Lord

11:00am

+ indicates you are invited to stand

**Bold print** indicates congregation in unison

GATHERING

*Weather permitting, all who are able are invited to gather outside in front of the Sanctuary.  
We will proceed together into the Sanctuary after the Call to Worship.*

+ Call to Worship

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

**All: Let the people say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."**

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

**All: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.**

One: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.  
The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.  
This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

**All: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!

**All: O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!**

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

**All: The Lord is God, and God has given us light.**

**Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.**

One: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

**All: O give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good, for God's steadfast love endures forever.**

+ Procession

*The congregation and choir will enter to the music of the drums.  
The Hymn will be sung by all once the people are assembled in the Sanctuary.*

+ Hymn 196 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

Prayer of Confession

[adapted from a prayer by Ted Loder]

*Kenyan traditional*

Leader:                      All:

Lis - ten, lis - ten, God is call - ing, through the Word in - vit - ing,  
of - fer - ing for - give - ness, com - fort and joy. 1.(lis - ten) 2. joy.

One: Lord of all, grant us your peace, for we have made peace with what does not give peace, and we are afraid.

**All: Drive us deep, now, to face ourselves, so we may see that what we truly need to fear  
is our capacity to deceive and willingness to be deceived, our loving of things and using of people,  
our struggle for power and shrinking of soul,  
our addiction to comfort and sedation of conscience,  
our readiness to criticize and reluctance to create, our clamor for privilege and silence at injustice,  
our seeking for security and forsaking the kingdom.**

### Silent prayer

One: Lord, grant us your peace.


**All: Instill in us such fear of you as will begin to make us wise  
and such quiet courage as will enable us to begin  
to make hope visible, forgiving delightful, loving contagious, faith liberating,  
peace-making joyful, and ourselves open and present to other people and your kingdom. Amen.**

### Silent prayer

### Assurance of Forgiveness

+Response (sung three times)

Alexander Archangelsky



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and might - y, Ho - ly im-mor-tal One, have mer - cy up-on us.

### WORD

*Where the scriptures are read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ, the living Word, is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. God's Spirit also evokes our response. Through singing, affirmation, and prayer, with the help of God's Spirit, we discern Jesus Christ, receive Christ's grace, and resolve to follow Christ's way.*

### Prayer for Illumination

#### Scripture

Luke 19:28b-40 (NRSVUE)

Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus, and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. Now as he was approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king  
who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven,  
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon

Carla Pratt Keyes

### Anthem

Ride On, King Jesus

Spiritual, arr. L.L. Fleming

*Ride on, King Jesus. No one can hinder you. Ride on, King Jesus. Ride, King Jesus, ride to me.  
When I look around me to find someone who's gentle and kind,  
Someone to show me the way, I look to Jesus and I pray. Ride on ...  
When I need someone to hear, to help me conquer my fear,  
When I can't find the way, I look to Jesus and I pray.*

- Ashley Dawson and Jessie Cooke, sopranos

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

+ Somos Uno (Hymn 322)

***We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.***

***Somos uno en Cristo, somos uno, somos uno, uno solo.***

***We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,***

***One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.***

Prayers of the People

EUCCHARIST

*Though we are not sharing the bread and cup today, we remember with thanksgiving (eukharistia) the grace (kharis) with which Jesus welcomes us to sit at his table, eat what will satisfy our deepest hungers, and feed others as we've been fed. We offer ourselves in response to Christ's wonderful offering of love.*

Offering and Announcements



*Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, visitor cards, or any other communications to the Pastor or staff in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary or signal an usher to bring you the offering plate.*

*Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>, or by using the QR Code to the left.*

*NOTE: Special offerings for the One Great Hour of Sharing and for Easter Lilies may also be made using this code. Use the drop-down menu to designate the purpose of your payment.*

Musical Interlude

Luke 22:14-23:56 (NRSVUE)

***(Congregation, please read all the parts printed in bold:***

***Disciples, Crowd, Woman, Bystanders, Jailers, the Council, Leaders, Soldiers, Criminals, and Centurion.)***

*The Institution of the Lord's Supper*

*Narrator:* When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them,

*Jesus:* "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

*Narrator:* Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks Jesus said,

*Jesus:* "Take this and divide it among yourselves, for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

*Narrator:* Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks he broke it & gave it to them, saying,

*Jesus:* "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

*Narrator:* And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying,

*Jesus:* "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed!"

*Narrator:* Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this.

*The Dispute about Greatness*

*Narrator:* A dispute also arose among them as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But he said to them,

Jesus: "The kings of the gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather, the greatest among you must become like the youngest and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials, and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

#### Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

Jesus: Simon, Simon, listen! Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your own faith may not fail, and you, when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

Narrator: And [Peter] said to him,

Peter: "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death!"

Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: "I tell you, Peter, the cock will not crow this day until you have denied three times that you know me."

#### Purse, Bag, and Sword

Narrator: He said to them,

Jesus: "When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?"

**Disciples: "No, not a thing."**

Jesus: "But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless,' and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."

**Disciples: "Lord, look, here are two swords."**

Jesus: "It is enough."

#### Jesus Prays on the Mount of Olives

Narrator: He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

Jesus: "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

Narrator: Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

Jesus: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done."

Narrator: Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

Jesus: "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

#### The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

Narrator: While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him,

Jesus: "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?"

Narrator: When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked,

**Crowd: "Lord, should we strike with the sword?"**

Narrator: Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said,

Jesus: "No more of this!"

Narrator: And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him,

Jesus: "Have you come out with swords and clubs as though I were a rebel? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness!"

#### Peter Denies Jesus

Narrator: Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a female servant, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said,

**Woman: "This man also was with him."**

Narrator: But he denied it, saying,

Peter: "Woman, I do not know him."

Narrator: A little later someone else, on seeing him, said,

**Bystander: "You also are one of them."**

Narrator: But Peter said,

Peter: "Man, I am not!"

Narrator: Then about an hour later still another kept insisting,

**Bystander: "Surely this man also was with him, for he is a Galilean."**

Peter: "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!"

Narrator: At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him,

Jesus: "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times."

Narrator: And he went out and wept bitterly.

#### The Mocking and Beating of Jesus

Narrator: Now the men who were holding Jesus began to mock him and beat him; they also blindfolded him and kept asking him,

**Jailers: "Prophecy! Who is it who struck you?"**

Narrator: They kept heaping many other insults on him.

#### Jesus before the Council

Narrator: When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. They said,

**The Council: "If you are the Messiah, tell us."**

Jesus: "If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God."

Narrator: All of them asked,

**The Council: "Are you, then, the Son of God?"**

Jesus: "You say that I am."

**The Council: "What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips!"**

#### Jesus before Pilate

Narrator: Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying,

**The Council: "We found this man inciting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to Caesar and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."**

Narrator: Then Pilate asked him,  
Pilate: "Are you the king of the Jews?"  
Jesus: "You say so."  
Narrator: Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds,  
Pilate: "I find no basis for an accusation against this man."  
Narrator: But they were insistent and said,

### **The Council**

**and Crowd:** **"He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."**

### Jesus before Herod

Narrator: When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. And when he learned that he was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him off to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had been wanting to see him for a long time because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at some length, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the scribes stood by vehemently accusing him. Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him; then he put an elegant robe on him and sent him back to Pilate. That same day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; before this they had been enemies.

### Jesus Sentenced to Death

Narrator: Pilate then called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people and said to them,  
Pilate: "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people, and here I have examined him in your presence and have not found this man guilty of any of your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. Indeed, he has done nothing to deserve death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."

Narrator: Then they all shouted out together,  
**All:** **"Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!"**

Narrator: (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city and for murder.) Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, but they kept shouting,

**All:** **"Crucify, crucify him!"**

Narrator: A third time he said to them,  
Pilate: "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him."

Narrator: But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified, and their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted. He released the man they asked for, the one who had been put in prison for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

### The Crucifixion of Jesus

Narrator: As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said,

Jesus: "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Narrator: Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said,

Jesus: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Narrator: And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,

**Leaders: "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!"**

Narrator: The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying,

**Soldiers: "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"**

Narrator: There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Narrator: One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying,

**Criminal #1: "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"**

Narrator: But the other rebuked him, saying,

**Criminal #2: "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong."**

Narrator: Then he said,

**Criminal #2: Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom."**

Jesus: "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

#### The Death of Jesus

Narrator: It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said,

Jesus: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Narrator: Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said,

**Centurion: "Certainly this man was innocent."**

Narrator: And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

#### The Burial of Jesus

Narrator: Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph who, though a member of the council, had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea, and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid. It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

#### SENDING

*Our worship and service do not end with the postlude; we go forth to love and serve God in our daily lives.*

+ Hymn 157    *I Danced in the Morning*

First verse: solo; **all other verses and all refrains ALL**

+ Charge and Blessing

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

+ Postlude

ABOUT WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: GPPC's Director of Music is Doug Brown. Our liturgist is Seminary Intern, Katie Carboni. Helping to read the Passion story are Claire Lindbloom–Jesus, Sarah Ramseur–Pilate, Santi Arjona–Peter. Our livestream operator is Anna Creech. Steve Booth is lead usher. Percussionists are Mike Ramsey and Zachary George.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see today's greeter or an usher.

PLEASE TAKE THE PAPER BULLETIN YOU HAVE USED home for reference and/or recycling. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at [ginterparkpc@gmail.com](mailto:ginterparkpc@gmail.com).

**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP**

**We hope you'll join us for this week's special services**

**Maundy Thursday Worship (April 17, 2025; 6:00pm)**

Evening Worship at First United Presbyterian Church, 3401 North Ave, Richmond, VA 23222. First United will host GPPC for a service that explores the Exodus and the parallel experience of African Americans, along with the miracles God is still performing.

**Good Friday Worship (April 18, 2025; 7:00pm)**

Worship in GPPC's Sanctuary with members of First United. We will read the story of Christ's passion, and the choir will sing five anthems by four contemporary composers (and a little Franz Schubert) at the front of the sanctuary, accompanied by a string quartet and piano.

**Easter Sunday Worship (April 20, 2025; 11:00am)**

Our celebration of Christ's resurrection will take place in the GPPC Sanctuary. The choir is hard at work on the spectacular anthem *Ain't No Grave* by Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory. Worship will include the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. As an expression of our communion with people around the world, we will also participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. Additional information on the offering and how to give follow below.

**Easter Egg Hunt!**

Please join us in the Courtyard near the Kitchen right after Worship on Easter morning for an egg hunt for young children (*birth through Elementary school*). We will start with the youngest children, then release them in ascending ages so everyone has a chance to find some eggs! Bring your basket if you have one; we will have a few extras if you need to borrow one. We are looking forward to a great time!

**Offering - One Great Hour of Sharing**

Through four church-wide Special Offerings, Presbyterians share Christ's love with millions of people around the world. We encourage every member to give to these offerings that connect us to God's work to change lives. One Great Hour of Sharing, received on Easter, serves the "least of these" among us by feeding the hungry, empowering the oppressed, and providing relief to those affected by catastrophic events. To give online go to <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/oghs/>.