# **Good Friday Service**

March 29, 2024, 5:30 pm St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

# Gathering

Congregation gathers in silence.

**Prelude** "O Sacred Head" by J Brahms

The congregation is invited to stand.

# Call to Worship

Bishop Be still, and remember that God is our refuge.

People When the cross looms and evil stands tall we remember:

Presider God is courage in destruction's wake.

People God is love that sets the captives free.

Bishop God is solidarity in the midst of struggle.People God is justice that brings cruelty to an end.

Presider Our strength does not mirror systems of dominance.

People Salvation is this: God within us, God among us.

Bishop With thanks, we gather with God, People our hope in times of trouble.

Hymn, #166 Sing my tongue The Hymnal 1982

## Collect of the Day

Bishop God be with you.

People And also with you.

Bishop Let us pray,

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Savior Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the

Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People Amen.

#### The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ

Deacon The Passion of Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, O God.

The congregation may be seated.

#### **Choral Introit**

"Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of Our Hearts" by H. Purcell

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts; shut not thy merciful ears unto our pray'rs; but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty.

O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not, at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee. Amen.

Poem: "Beloved Is Where We Begin" by Jan Richardson

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

If you would enter into the wilderness, do not begin without a blessing.

Do not leave without hearing who you are: Beloved, named by the One who has traveled this path before you.

Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

I cannot promise this blessing will free you from danger, from fear, from hunger or thirst, from the scorching of sun or the fall of the night. But I can tell you that on this path there will be help.

I can tell you that on this way there will be rest.

I can tell you that you will know the strange graces that come to our aid only on a road such as this, that fly to meet us bearing comfort and strength, that come alongside us for no other cause than to lean themselves toward our ear and with their curious insistence whisper our name:

Beloved. Beloved. Beloved.

## The First Reading: From the Gospel of John 18: 1-14

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron 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 guards 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, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." 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, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

So the soldiers, their officer, and the Judean guards 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 the Judean leaders that it was better to have one person die for the people.

Silence for reflection. A candle is extinguished.

Hymn, #158 Ah, holy Jesus The Hymnal 1982

# The Second Reading: From the Gospel of John 18: 15-27

Elizabeth Ring

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 brought Peter in. The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." Now the servants and the guards 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 questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Judeans 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." When he had said this, one of the guards standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

Poem: "Narrative Theology #1" by Padraig O Tuama

Maria Guarino

And I said to him:

Are there answers to all of this?

And he said:

The answer is in a story and the story is being told.

And I said:

But there is so much pain And she answered, plainly: Pain will happen.

Then I said:
Will I ever find meaning?
And they said:
You will find meaning
Where you give meaning.

The answer is in a story and the story isn't finished.

Silence for reflection. A candle is extinguished.

# The Third Reading: From the Gospel of John 18: 28 - 19:16a

Maria Guarino

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, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Judean leaders replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.)

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Judeans?" Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" Pilate replied, "I am not a Judean, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "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 Judeans. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "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." Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went out to the Judean leaders again and told them, "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 Judeans?" They shouted in reply, "Not this man, but Barabbas!" 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 Judeans!" and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!" When the chief priests and the guards saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." The Judean leaders answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God."

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Judean leaders cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor."

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 Judean leaders, "Here is your King!" They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

**Hymn, #170** To Mock Your Reign The Hymnal 1982

Confession The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Presider O God, you search us out and know us,

and all that we are is open to you.

We confess that we are entangled in sin.

People Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

When we avoid examining ourselves but jump to examine our neighbors:

Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

When we show great discipline in pursuit of worldly wealth, but invest neither energy nor enthusiasm in the treasures of the Spirit:

Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

When we clamor for your crown, but refuse to shoulder your cross:

Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

When we confess you amongst your friends but deny you when your enemies close in:

Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

When we build our comforts and pleasures on the sacrifice of others, instead of sacrificing our privileges to build a world that all can share:

Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

When we would rather crucify the prophets than unweave the web of injustice.

Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

When we demand instant results and scorn those who find value in waiting, in yearning, even in suffering, even in dying:

Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

When we look for an easier gospel;

a lighter cross;a less demanding savior:Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

Be merciful, O God of hope, for we have sinned.

Silence for reflection. A candle is extinguished.

# The Fourth Reading: From the Gospel of John 19: 16b-30

David Heald

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.

The congregation stands.

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 Judeans." Many of the Judeans 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 of the Judeans said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Judeans,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Judeans.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." 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, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." (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, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." 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 fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." 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, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The congregation may be seated.

Poem: "For the Interim Time" by John O'Donohue

When near the end of day, life has drained

Out of light, and it is too soon

For the mind of night to have darkened things,

No place looks like itself, loss of outline Makes everything look strangely in-between, Unsure of what has been, or what might come. Elizabeth Ring

In this wan light, even trees seem groundless. In a while it will be night, but nothing Here seems to believe the relief of dark.

You are in this time of the interim Where everything seems withheld.

The path you took to get here has washed out; The way forward is still concealed from you.

"The old is not old enough to have died away; The new is still too young to be born."

You cannot lay claim to anything; In this place of dusk, Your eyes are blurred; And there is no mirror.

Everyone else has lost sight of your heart And you can see nowhere to put your trust; You know you have to make your own way through.

As far as you can, hold your confidence.
Do not allow your confusion to squander
This call which is loosening
Your roots in false ground,
That you might come free
From all you have outgrown.

What is being transfigured here is your mind, And it is difficult and slow to become new. The more faithfully you can endure here, The more refined your heart will become For your arrival in the new dawn.

Silence for reflection. A candle is extinguished.

Hymn

When I survey the wondrous cross (see next page)



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

#### The Fifth Reading: From the Gospel of John 19: 31-42

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Judean leaders did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth.) These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Judean leaders, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

## Anthem

"Drop, Drop Slow Tears" by Orlando Gibbons

Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beauteous feet, which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.

Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat; to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.

In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears; nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.

Silence for reflection. A candle is extinguished.

#### The Solemn Collects

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer, The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown

The congregation is invited to stand.

#### Deacon

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Silence

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve

For Thomas, our Bishop, and all the congregations of this diocese For Amanda, our Priest, Corey, our Deacon, and all the people of this congregation

For Mary, our Intern, and all those studying to become leaders of the Church For all Christians in this community, and those all over the world For those persecuted for their faith

For reconciliation between those who have been hurt by an expression of the Church and those who have caused harm

For those preparing for baptism, particularly Noah

That God will confirm the Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Silence

**Bishop** 

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People Amen.

Deacon

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For Joe, the President of the United States

For the Congress and the Supreme Court

For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations

For Maine State legislators and local officials

For nations experiencing conflict and for leaders deliberating at negotiation tables

For all who serve the common good

That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

Bishop

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Deacon

Let us pray for our Jewish siblings who possess an eternal covenant with the Lord, who delivered them from bondage to freedom;

For continued faithfulness to God's covenant with them;

For their flourishing in peace as witnesses to God's sustaining love;

For safety from all malice and harm;

For the fullness of redemption for the sake of God's Name.

That unity and concord may exist between Jews and Christians, in obedience to God's will.

Silence

Bishop O God of Abraham, you planted your people Israel as the root and grafted

Gentiles as wild branches into a single olive tree of praise to you: As we come near to the cross, we lament Christian acts of prejudice and violence against your faithful people, of whom Jesus Christ was born. Bless the children of your covenant, so that together we may attain the fullness of your blessing for the world.

People Amen.

Deacon Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For those who are hungry and homeless, destitute and oppressed

For those who are ill or disabled, in body, mind, or spirit

For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish

For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair

For those who are sorrowful and bereaved

For those who are persecuted for the sake of Christ

For prisoners, refugees, and captives

For victims of war, genocide, and trafficking, and all those in mortal danger

That God in great mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of unending love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Bishop Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let

the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.

Deacon Let us pray for those who have not embraced God's redemptive love;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation

For those who have lost their faith

For those hardened by sin and indifference

For the contemptuous and the scornful

For those who are persecutors of Christ's disciples

For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others

That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Bishop Merciful God, the source of life and fountain of mercy, let the Gospel of your Son

Jesus Christ be preached with grace and love; turn the hearts of the followers of

Jesus who have harmed others in his name; lead all to repentance and

amendment of life; and sustain by your loving grace all who lift their eyes to you.

People Amen.

Deacon Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all

who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the

fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of

resurrection.

Silence

Bishop O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole

Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for

ever and ever.

People Amen.

Hymn, #167 There is a green hill far away The Hymnal 1982

**Prayer:** "In the Silence" by Ruth Harvey

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Presider Lord God,

we meet beneath your cross this evening.

We meet -

friends, strangers, mourners -

grieving for the loss of love in the world.

We meet because we want to understand the awful things that happened. We

meet because we want to be with you,

alongside you on your cross.

And in our meeting, we keep silence.

We keep silence in a time when words fail us.

We keep silence as you kept silence on the cross.

And so we keep silence with those crucified today,

with those who live in darkness, in despair, in pain.

We keep silence with those treated as today's scapegoats: people who seem

different, strange ...

Silence

We keep silence with those robbed of a sense of belonging in our society:

Silence

We keep silence with all who mourn a loved one.

Silence

We keep silence with those known to us today who live in darkness. Who find it hard to see beyond death and desolation and despair.

Silence

In the pain, misfortune, oppression and death of the people, God is silent.

God is silent on the cross in the crucified.

And this silence is God's word, God's cry.

In solidarity, God speaks the language of love.

Silence for reflection. The final candle is extinguished.

A chime sounds three times. The congregation departs in silence.

#### Resources:

Call to Worship: Enfleshed "Liturgy that matters" 24 November 2019

Confession: Written by Nathan Nettleton, 2001, incorporating some ideas from prayers in *Stages on the Way* by the Wild Goose Worship Group © 1998 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland.

The Gospel of John: adapted by The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts from *The New Revised Standard Version* of the Bible.

The Solemn Collects: adapted by The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts from the BCP *Poems:* 

- "Beloved Is Where We Begin" by Jan Richardson. *Circle of Grace.* Wanton Gospeller Press. Orlando, 2015
- "Narrative Theology #1" by Padraig O Tuama. *in the shelter: finding a home in the world.*Broadleaf Books, Minneapolis, 2015.
- "For the Interim Time" by John O'Donohue. *To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings.* Convergent. New York, 2008.
- "In the silence" by Ruth Harvey, *Eggs and Ashes*, Ruth Burgess & Chris Polhill, Wild Goose Publications, Glasgow, UK, 2004

# SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Bishop The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown
Presider The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Deacon The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Music Director Dr. Christina Edelen Musicians The St. Bart's Choir

Lector Maria Guarino, Elizabeth Ring, David Heald

Ushers Ann Donaghy & Nancy Gunzelmann

Altar Guild Jan Burson
A/V Pal Covie
Acolyte Mary Curlew

# A note on antisemitism during Holy Week from Rev. Amanda

Holy Week is, for Christians across the globe, the time of year when we journey with Jesus both toward the cross on Good Friday as well as toward God's great redeeming act of love on Resurrection Sunday. Our guides in this journey are the storytellers of our scriptures, most notably the gospel written by St. John the Evangelist. John's depiction of Jesus' trial and execution and, in particular, his use of the word "the Jews" has not only been the foundation for films and works of art, it has also been the foundation for antisemitism in the Church. The Episcopal Church notes:

We acknowledge that unjust stereotyping of Jews by Christians persists, continuing to harm Jewish people in the present day—as it has for centuries. We acknowledge that anti-Judaism is expressed in a wide array of present practices of The Episcopal Church: our liturgical texts, interpretation of scriptures, preaching, devotional practices, poetry, iconography, hymnody, academic writing, pastoral advice, and educational resources.\*

To interrupt that cycle of harm, you will notice that the translation of John's gospel that we have used this evening has been adapted to use "the Judeans" rather than "the Jews" to describe the people condemning Jesus. However, minor changes to the text cannot correct centuries of interpretation and I invite you to consider how you might increase your awareness of this issue and how you could interrupt the stereotyping, condemning, and demeaning ways our Jewish siblings are held in Christian spaces and thought.

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Christian-Jewish Relations: Theological and Practical Guidance for The Episcopal Church (2021)



# St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine

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Music Director: Dr. Christina Edelen

**Deacon:** The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Intern: Mary Curlew
Sr. Warden: Laurie Hyndman
Jr. Warden: Joe Michaud

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