

Readers

The Shadow of Betrayal and Arrest Barbara Ullem
The Shadow of Denial John Riggins
The Shadow of Accusation Virginia Oates
The Shadow of Contempt Debbie Taylor
The Shadow of Crucifixion Paul Bradley
The Shadow of Death Celia Gray
The Shadow of Burial Theresa Painter

Elliott Hipp, Pastor
Mark Bureson, Pianist

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

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Good Friday

April 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm
Paw Creek Presbyterian Church
Paw Creek, North Carolina

The Shadow of Burial

Luke 23: 50-56

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.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

The Seventh Candle is Extinguished

Silence

Prayer *Great heavenly God, your son was laid in a tomb where the desolation was earth's last word on his life. We pray that even when hope is gone, our hearts will know that your Word can never be silenced and that he will always speak again. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Closing Music

Were You There?

arr. Richard Huggins

Dismissal

O Savior of the world.

who by your cross and precious blood have redeemed us:

Save us and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.

We leave the Sanctuary in silence and in darkness, until we return on the third day. The Easter Sunday service begins at 11:00 am. All are welcome to join us.

The Shadow of Death

Luke 23: 44-49

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 with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." 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.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures forever.

The Sixth Candle is Extinguished

Silence

Prayer *Great heavenly God, in darkness your son was taken from this earth, his cry echoing throughout the land. We pray that when hope has deserted us and we feel most alone, that he will be our model of obedience and of strength. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Prelude *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

arr. Molly Ijames

Greeting

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Creator and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God.

who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

* Hymn 215

What Wondrous Love is This

Prayer *(in unison)*

Almighty God, look with mercy on your children for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing

to be betrayed;

and to be given over to the hands of sinners;

and to suffer death on the cross.

For He now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Readings from Scripture

Isaiah 53 - *The Suffering Servant*

He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity;
and as one from whom others hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him of no account.
Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases;
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.
But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

Psalm 22 *(responsive)*

How shall I repay you, O LORD, for all the good things you have done for me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; by night as well, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Our ancestors put their trust in you; they trusted, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered; they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm and not a man, scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn; they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

“He trusted in the LORD; let the LORD deliver him; let God rescue him, if God delights in him.”

Hymn

The Old Rugged Cross

**On a hill far away stood and old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame,
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.**

**So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
And I'll cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.**

**O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear lamb of God left His glory above,
To bear it to mark Calvary.**

Refrain

**In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
A wondrous beauty I see;
For 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
To pardon and sanctify me.**

Refrain

**To the old rugged cross I will ever be true,
It's shame and reproach gladly bear;
Then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.**

Refrain

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, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures forever.

The Fifth Candle is Extinguished

Silence

Prayer *Great heavenly God, at the place of the skull, misguided people hung your son on a cross, and scorned his kingship, even as he prayed for their forgiveness. We pray that he will be the master of our hands and our words to keep them from evil purposes all our days. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Service of Shadows

The Shadow of Betrayal and Arrest

Luke 22: 47-53

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, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" 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, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? 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!"

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures forever.

The First Candle is Extinguished

Silence

Prayer *Great heavenly God, at the Mount of Olives your son felt the bitter kiss of a friend and the rough hands of the guards. We pray that we may never raise a hand against him or his little ones, and we lean on him for courage to resist temptation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Shadow of Denial

Luke 22: 54-62

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 servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" 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, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures forever.

The Second Candle is Extinguished

Silence

Prayer *Great heavenly God, in the courtyard Peter the Rock denied your son with words that stung more sharply than a sword. We pray that we may never fail in our loyalty, so that our words will always fortify your kingdom in this world. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Shadow of Accusation

Luke 23: 1-5

Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate. They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king." Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so." Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man." But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures forever.

The Third Candle is Extinguished

Silence

Prayer *Great heavenly God, before the governor your son was accused with words that human hearts cannot understand. We pray that we may never take his name in vain ignorance, and we turn to him to mold our words to eternal truth. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Shadow of Contempt

Luke 23: 6-12

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.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures forever.

The Fourth Candle is Extinguished

Silence

Prayer *Great heavenly God, at the court of Herod, an earthly king dared to mock and deride your anointed Messiah. We pray that our words will never lead others astray, and that you will use our hands only for the building of your kingdom. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.*