

# First Presbyterian Church

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CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP | 9 AM | APRIL 2, 2023  
PALM/PASSION SUNDAY



First Presbyterian  
Church of Charlotte

**Time of Quiet Meditation and Reflection** | Quiet begins in the Chapel at 8:50 a.m.

**Words of Welcome** | Reverend Mary Henderson Bowman

**Invocation** | Adapted from A Devotional Guide for Every Season of Your Life | Jim Branch

**Almighty God, You are the light and life of every soul and our only source of hope. We offer You our wounded and broken places, our pain and our doubts. Help us to allow You to transform and heal our pain — rather than allowing our pain to be a reason to doubt Your goodness. In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**Prayer for Illumination** | Thold Gill

**Old Testament Reading** | Isaiah 42:1-7

*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up His voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed He will not break, and a dimly burning wick He will not quench; He will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until He has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for His teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**New Testament Reading** | Matthew 27:26-31 | Elise Barksdale

*Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort of soldiers around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on His head. They put a reed in His right hand and knelt before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on Him and took the reed and struck Him on the head. After mocking Him, they stripped Him of the robe and put his own clothes on Him. Then they led Him away to crucify Him.*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Meditative Music** | O Sacred Head Now Wounded (Instrumental) | Dan Musselman

*O sacred head, now wounded, With grief and shame weighed down; Now scornfully surrounded With thorns, Thine only crown; O sacred Head, what glory, What bliss till now was Thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine. What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered Was all for sinners' gain: Mine, mine was the transgression, But Thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve Thy place; Look on me with Thy favor, Vouchsafe to me Thy grace. What language shall I borrow To thank Thee, dearest friend, For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? O make me Thine forever; And should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never Outlive my love to Thee.*

**Meditation** | Following Jesus Through Lent: A God Who Suffers

**Moment of Reflection**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** | *The Book of Common Order*

**We confess, O God, that we breathe the proud spirit of the world, the spirit which scorns the way of weakness, clings to knowledge as a means of power, and seeks to prove its worth by belittling others. We confess that we have followed the guidance of the world more than of You. We are aware that our sins are included among all those for which You died on the cross.**

### **Moment of Reflection**

**O Lord of the cross, we ask that You forgive what we have been and done, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. We receive Your forgiveness with grateful hearts, and we commit to the work of extending it to others. Amen.**

### **Offering**

*The Christian life is marked by the offering of one's self to God to be shaped, empowered, directed, and changed by God. In worship, God presents us with the costly self-offering of Jesus Christ. We are claimed by Christ and set free. In response to God's love in Jesus Christ we offer God our lives, our gifts, our abilities, and our material goods, for God's service. The offering plates are located at the back of the chapel if you are interested in giving regularly as a spiritual practice.*

### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

#### **Meditative Music** | Jesus, Give Us Strength | Tony Alonso

*Jesus, give us strength to follow You, to sing with You, to be with You. The warmth of Your love casts all troubles from my soul. I lay before You all my fears, watch over me. Jesus, give us strength to follow You, to sing with You, to be with You. I sing my songs to You Lord God. Be my strength through all storms; I call Your name. Jesus, give us strength to follow You, to sing with You, to be with You. My soul rests in God alone. My safety, my glory flow from God's love. My heart sings to You, my rock and my salvation. Jesus, give us strength to follow You, to sing with You, to be with You.*

### **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Sacrament of Communion**

*To receive the gluten-free bread and the cup, come forward, take a piece of bread, and then dip the bread into the cup. It is still communion if you prefer to take only the bread. If for any reason you prefer not to come forward, please raise your hand and the officers will be glad to serve you in your pew.*

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving** | *The Book of Common Order*

**Gracious God, thank You for meeting us in the silence, in community, in the Word, and in communion. As we prepare to leave, may we continue to lean into You as You heal our wounds and make them a source of life for us and for others, as You did with Your Son Jesus. In whose name we pray. Amen.**

### **Charge and Blessing**

*We have been fed by the presence of God in the silence, by the Word, and through communion. Please feel free to greet one another in a warm and quiet way that allows an easing out of the silence. The minister is available for prayer or conversation after the service. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. If you would like to visit longer with other members, you are encouraged to move to the Welcome Center.*

## CHURCHWIDE

**Donations Needed** - We need volunteers to bring refreshments, napkins, etc. for the Easter Sunrise service. Donations can be dropped off at Romare Bearden Park by 7 a.m. on April 9. | Sign up: [fpc.tiny.us/eastersunrise](https://fpc.tiny.us/eastersunrise)

## CARE

**Stephen Ministry** – We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation. If you are in a season where you need extra support, contact Anna Dickson. | Contact: [adickson@firstpres-charlotte.org](mailto:adickson@firstpres-charlotte.org)

**Pastor on call** – If you have a pastoral emergency outside of regular church hours, dial 704.927.0256 for the on-call voicemail. Your call will be returned promptly.

## OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

**Soup Kitchen**, April 9, 10:30 a.m., Roof Above Day Center - Hand out a sandwich and cup of soup to our unsheltered neighbors on Easter. | Sign up: [fpc.tiny.us/y39v5zha](https://fpc.tiny.us/y39v5zha)

**Plowshares History Hall Tour**, April 16, 12:15 p.m., FBDR – Join us for a light lunch and short program, including a guided tour of our History Hall given by Advocacy Committee members Anne Lafferty and Ross Loeser. | Register: [fpc.tiny.us/historyhall](https://fpc.tiny.us/historyhall)

**Westerly Hills Academy Campus Beautification Day**, April 29, 10 a.m., Westerly Hills Academy - Work alongside Westerly Hills staff and families on gardening projects to brighten up the campus. | Register: [fpc.tiny.us/flowers](https://fpc.tiny.us/flowers)

## YOUTH

**Last Chance For Appleby Nominations** - Today is the last call for nominations for the recipient of this year's Appleby Award. | Nominate online: [tinyurl.com/applebynom](https://tinyurl.com/applebynom)

**No Youth Events On Easter Sunday** - We look forward to worshipping with you!



VIRTUAL  
CONNECT  
CARD



GIVE  
ONLINE



TEXT  
TO GIVE



PRAYER  
REQUESTS