

VPBC Good Friday Service 2/4/21

Welcome to this time of reflection and prayer

As we draw near to God my prayer is that that we will encounter Him as we remember His sacrifice for us and His passion.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

For there is one God, and there is one who brings God and human beings together, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself to redeem the whole human race.

The Promise of the Empty Tomb

The promise of the empty tomb
Rips the rug from under your feet,
And says hold on tight
We're going for a ride
Into the deep unknown
The promise of the empty tomb
Says the story doesn't end the way
You think it will.
Yes, your future is set in stone,
But I carved it and it's beautiful
The promise of the empty tomb
Says you are worth so much more
Than you think you are
You are to die for
And I did
The promise of the empty tomb
Drives nails through darkness
And says trust me
I have a plan
And it is good
The promise of the empty tomb
Rolls back the stone
Dances on death
And says why are you crying,
Don't you know me?

The Stone by Sam Hargreaves

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsTsRxqNANk&t=21s>

We remember together the events leading up to Christ's crucifixion.

Jesus is taken before Pilate the Roman governor.

"What, then, shall I do with Jesus called the Messiah?" Pilate asked them.

"Crucify him!" they all answered.

²³ But Pilate asked, "What crime has he committed?"

Then they started shouting at the top of their voices: "Crucify him!"

²⁴ When Pilate saw that it was no use to go on, but that a riot might break out, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am not responsible for the death of this man! This is your doing!"

²⁵ The whole crowd answered, "Let the responsibility for his death fall on us and on our children!"

²⁶ Then Pilate set Barabbas free for them; and after he had Jesus whipped, he handed him over to be crucified. (Matthew 27:22-26)

Psalm 22

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jdXDQ0qzKM&feature=emb_imp_woyt

2 Corinthians 5:21

Christ was without sin, but for our sake God made him share our sin in order that in union with him we might share the righteousness of God.

Let's spend a few moments bringing to God those things we're ashamed of and need to confess to Him, trusting in His mercy.

1 John 1:8-9

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and there is no truth in us. But if we confess our sins to God, he will keep his promise and do what is right: he will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing.

Jesus Is Crucified

As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene named Simon, and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus' cross. They came to a place called Golgotha, which means, "The Place of the Skull." There they offered Jesus wine mixed with a bitter substance; but after tasting it, he would not drink it.

They crucified him and then divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. After that they sat there and watched him. Above his head they put the written notice of the accusation against him: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Then they crucified two bandits with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. (Matthew 27:32-38)

When I survey the wondrous cross

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iK8kYIBn_qI

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At about three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"

Some of the people standing there heard him and said, "He is calling for Elijah!" One of them ran up at once, took a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, put it on the end of a stick, and tried to make him drink it.

But the others said, "Wait, let us see if Elijah is coming to save him!"
Jesus again gave a loud cry and breathed his last. (Matthew 27:45-50)

Experienced in these matters, the soldier thought the man dead and to prove it, stabbed a spear deep into his side.

The blood and water flowing from where the man was hung, soaked into the ground. No need now to break his legs before the Sabbath comes.....

I am not a Ghost the man says as they put their hands into his side finding new life, born of wounds, life in abundance.

Peter O'Grady

Let's be still and spend some time at the foot of the cross as Jesus dies for us.

Such amazing love, such grace!

In Christ Alone my Hope is Found

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCeSOY5tisI>

Let's remember to pray for one another this weekend as we look ahead to the joy and celebration of Christ's resurrection!

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen