



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Please silence all electronic devices and do not take flash photos during the service. As the prelude begins, we invite you into a period of quiet reflection as we prepare for worship. † Please stand at these times if you are able to do so.

(PLEASE ENTER THE SANCTUARY IN SILENCE AND MEDITATION)

PRELUDE | *Meditation on "Were You There"*

Jae Ha, Arr.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

SOLO | *Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?*

Spiritual - Tom Dooling, Soloist

WELCOME AND GREETINGS

Ellen Frazier

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ellen Frazier

Leader: Today, we gather in remembrance.

People: We gather as people who recognize their need for a Savior.

Leader: We worship the king who humbled himself in obedience to death.

People: We cry out to Jesus, who loved us even in our sin.

Leader: We honor the one who took our place.

ALL: We raise our eyes to the God who allowed his son to die, so that we could always live.

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Ellen Frazier

† **CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP | *Hymn #255 Beneath the Cross of Jesus***

LESSON ONE: JESUS IS MOCKED | *Mark 15:16-20*

Mary Fruge-Medford

¹⁶ And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

Leader: Almighty God, we give thanks and praise and worship, with your Church in every place and throughout the ages, for the grace that has come to us once for all in our Lord Jesus Christ. It is with shame and sorrow, as we think of Him, that we confess our failures to be His true disciples; we have not followed Him in His concern for the poor, the despised and the lost ones; we shrink from being wholly committed to His way of meekness; we long for the prizes that this world can give, and are too easily turned aside from His way of faith and hope and love.

All: Lord have mercy on us. Christ have mercy on us, Lord have mercy on us. In Your forgiving love, most merciful Father, accept our sorrow for our sins, and strengthen us in the resolve to be His disciples indeed, by His Spirit in us, all the days of our life. For His love's sake. AMEN.

SILENT PRAYER

Leader: ³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

People: ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

Leader: ³⁴ And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

People: ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!"

Leader: ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine

People: ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

Leader: ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

People: ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

Leader: ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?"

People: ⁴¹ And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong."

Leader: ⁴² And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

People: ⁴³ And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

All Pray: Almighty God, you have given us a vision, in the word made flesh, of the freedom and fulfillment You have purposed for our human race. May that vision never fade from our minds and wills. May Your Spirit be strong to sustain its power against the darkness and evil in our human hearts, and in the world around us. Lord Jesus Christ, despised and rejected, Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief; be present with Your brothers and sisters who bear the pain of the world. Strengthen them in spirit. Send them present help and uplift them with the hope of Your Kingdom. Lord hear their prayer. AMEN.

SILENT PRAYER

LESSON THREE: THE DEATH OF JESUS | *Luke 23:44-49 (Read Responsively)*

Sandy Moore

Leader: ⁴⁴ It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

People: ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this He breathed His last.

Leader: ⁴⁷ Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

People: ⁴⁸ And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ And all His acquaintances and the women who had followed Him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

All Pray: As the Lord Jesus said, "It is finished", so we accept in faith, and in great thankfulness and gladness, His holy life and sacrificial death for us and for our world. As the Lord Jesus committed Himself in dying into the Father's hand, so let us commit ourselves, with all that concerns us, to His infinite power and goodness. Father, into Your hands we commit ourselves and all dear to us, and the world for which we pray. AMEN.

SILENT PRAYER

⁵⁰ Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, ⁵¹ who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. ⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁵³ Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. ⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. ⁵⁶ Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

All Pray: Almighty Father, we are filled with wonder, and awe and reverent worship, as we wait before the Cross that atones for our sins, and proclaims Your measureless love for weak and erring men and women. Thanks be to God for His gift beyond words, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Holy Spirit of God, come to us and move our hard hearts, that we may sorrow with Christ for our torn humanity, and for all homeless souls, and become His body in the world today. We are persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord. AMEN.

SILENT PRAYER

MEDITATION | *God Shows His Love For Us (Romans 5:8)*

Rev. Joe Moore

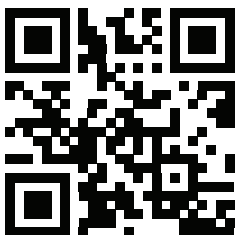
CONFESSION OF FAITH | *from the Declaration of Faith*

Leader: We believe that in the death of Jesus on the cross God achieved and demonstrated once for all the costly forgiveness of our sins. Jesus Christ is the Reconciler between God and the world. He acted on behalf of sinners as one of us, fulfilling the obedience God demands of us, accepting God's condemnation of our sinfulness.

People: **In His lonely agony on the cross Jesus felt forsaken by God and thus experienced hell itself for us. Yet the Son was never more in accord with the Father's will. He was acting on behalf of God, manifesting the Father's love that takes on itself the loneliness, pain, and death that result from our waywardness. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to Himself, not holding our sins against us. Each of us beholds on the cross the Savior who died in our place, so that we may no longer live for ourselves, but for Him. In Him is our only hope of salvation.**

THE CONGREGATION IS DISMISSED

(When you are ready, please leave the sanctuary silently and solemnly, yet filled with hope in anticipation of the resurrection to come.)



We welcome those of you visiting with us today and pray that you connect with the Holy Spirit during your time here.

FIRST-TIME GUESTS | Text WELCOME to 210-981-3339 and let us know you are here!

RETURNING GUESTS AND COVENANT

PARTNERS | Please fill out the Friendship Pad as it is passed down your pew, or complete the online version by scanning the QR code found on the Friendship Pad and to the left.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Ellen Frazier, Nona Hall, Mary Fruge-Medford, Ruth Ann Wood, Sandy Moore

GIVING OPTIONS | You may give online at fpcsanantonio.org/giveonline, text "FPCGIVE" to 833-692-2384 (messaging & data rates may apply), give through our mobile app fpcsanantonio.org/mobile-app, or mail in your gifts to 404 N. Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78205.

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS, A LENTEN PRAYER MEDITATION Thru Mar. 31 | 2nd & 3rd floors of FPC

In preparing for Easter, participate in the contemplative practice of praying through the Stations of the Cross. Prayer guides with maps in Mauzé Lobby, at each prayer station, and at fpcsanantonio.org/lent-prayer.

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG-VENTURE!

Sat., Mar. 30 | 10:00 AM | Westminster Hall

Infants-5th grade & their families, join FPC's Children's Ministry as they are "On the Hunt an Easter Egg-venture!" Bring a basket and invite a friend! More information at fpcsanantonio.org/children. Contact rebeccas@fpcsat.org.

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP AT FPC

Celebrate Christ's resurrection at our outdoor Modern Sunrise Service at 6:45 AM or Traditional services at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM. Can't make it in person? Watch live online at fpcsanantonio.org at 9:30 AM. Childcare available during traditional services. No Sunday School on Easter.

EASTER MORNING FELLOWSHIP

Join the FPC Family for Easter Morning Fellowship! Enjoy a free breakfast from 7:30-9:15 AM in Westminster Hall, followed by FPC³—coffee, cookies, and conversation—from 9:15 AM to 12:00 PM in the McCullough Room.

HAYDN'S "CREATION" CONCERT

Friday, Apr. 5 | 7:00 PM | FPC Sanctuary

FPC Sanctuary Choir, soloists, and orchestra present Joseph Haydn's "Creation" for 17th Annual Mary Jean Rogers Memorial Concert. fpcsanantonio.org/creation-concert.

INTERESTED IN JOINING?

DISCOVER FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, Apr. 7 | 12:15 - 2:00 PM

Interested in joining FPC as a Covenant Partner (member)? There are two required classes offered each season. Spring 2024 includes DiscoverFPC! on April 7 (light lunch will be provided) and KnowFPC! on April 21. More information and registration at fpcsanantonio.org/register-discover-fpc. Contact Sheila Figueroa, 210-226-0215, sheilaf@fpcsat.org.

THE GRAY HAVENS CONCERT AT FPC

Friday, Apr. 12 | 7:30 PM | Westminster Hall

Experience The Gray Havens 10-Year Anniversary Tour w/ Antoine Bradford at FPC. Sponsored by International Justice Mission (www.ijm.org). Doors open at 7PM. \$30 advance tickets at bit.ly/gray-havens-fpcsatx24 (\$40 at the door). VIP packages available.

FOCUS ON MARRIAGE EVENT

Saturday, Apr. 13 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Westminster Hall

Guest speakers Kristen & Pete Hatton. Free, includes lunch. RSVP & more info at fpcsanantonio.org/marriage. Reserve childcare by emailing childcare@fpcsat.org.



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Offices Located on Ave. E
between McCullough & 4th St

OFFICE HOURS | Monday -
Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

Please press the security doorbell
at the entrance to be let in.

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES
*9:30 & 11:00 AM - Traditional

9:30 & *11:00 AM - Modern

*Service streamed online on YouTube
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- Text "FPCGIVE" to (833) 692-2384
- Mobile App or Mail



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