

# Church on the Hill

A Congregation of the  
Reformed Church in America  
167-07 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358

**March 29, 2024**

**7:30 PM**



**Disarming Peter**

**By Lauren Wright Pittman**

**Inspired by John 18: 1-11**

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**Rev. Sally Ann Castle — Interim Minister**

**Mr. Sean Cotty — Music Director**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Good Friday Tenebrae Service

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands



**Prelude**

Improvisation on "Pange Lingua"

Sean Cotty

**Words of Welcome and Call to Worship**

Isaiah 53: 1-3

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** We gather here to worship God. **We gather here to remember how Jesus suffered and died for us and to thank God for his love and his mercy.** Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? **He grew up before God like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground.** He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. **Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.**

\* **Hymn No. 212**

What Wondrous Love Is This

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Merciful God - as we remember how your son Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, how seven times he spoke, seven words of love, we ask you to bless our hearing. Lord God, as we recall how all three hours His silence cried for mercy on the souls of all, we ask you to help us to understand the mystery of your love, and make us into a people who are ever more worthy of it. Amen.**

### **The Seven Last Words of Jesus**

**The First Word**

Luke 23: 33-34

When they came to the place called "The Skull", they nailed Jesus to the cross there, and the two criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said "Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing."

**Meditation on the First Word**

**Extinguishing the Candle**

Lord Jesus - you gave your life for us.

**You suffered and died that we might be made whole.**

**Anthem**

Thy Will Be Done

Craig Courtney

*Our cup was filled with darkness.*

*Our cup was filled with death.*

*Christ took our cup and drank it,*

*And gave us life, and gave us hope,*

*Gave us Himself.*

*My Father, let this cup pass from me.*

*Yet not my will, O Lord,*

*Yet not my will, O Lord, but Thine be done.*

*In blackest night we hear Him*

*In dark Gethsemane.*

*Pleading with the Father*

*For one more way,*

*For one more hope,*

*For one more day.*

*My Father, let this cup pass from me.*

*Yet not my will, O Lord,*

*Yet not my will, O Lord, but Thine be done.*

*Then they took our Savior,*

*And led Him to a tree;*

*And there they broke His body,*

*Poured out His life,*

*Put Him to death to rise again!*

*My Father, let this cup pass from me.*

*Yet not my will, O Lord,*

*Yet not my will, O Lord, but Thine be done.*

**The Second Word**

Luke 23: 39-43

One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying: "Don't you fear God? Here we are all under the same sentence. Ours, however, is only right, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!" Jesus said to him, "I tell you this: Today you will be in Paradise with me."

## **Meditation on the Second Word**

### **Extinguishing the Candle**

Lord Jesus - you gave your life for us.

**You suffered and died that we might be made whole.**

**Solo**

Meditation (from "Thais")

Jules Massenet

Soloist - Maxfield Panish, Violin

## **The Third Word**

John 19: 25-27

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

## **Meditation on the Third Word**

### **Extinguishing the Candle**

Lord Jesus - you gave your life for us.

**You suffered and died that we might be made whole.**

**Anthem**

Cross-Cry

Gilbert M. Martin

*I think I heard him say,  
When he was struggling up the hill,  
I think I heard him say,  
"Take my mother home."*

*I think I heard him say  
When they were raffling off his clothes,  
I think I heard him say,  
"Take my mother home.  
Then I'll die easy, Take my mother home;  
I'll die so easy, Take my mother home."*

*I think I heard him say  
When they were lifting up the cross,  
I think I heard him say,  
"Take my mother home."*

*I think I heard him cry  
When they were nailing in the nails,  
I think I heard him cry,*

*"Take my mother home;  
I'll die this death on Calvary,  
Won't have to die no more.  
I'll die on Calvary,  
Won't have to die no more.  
Then I'll die easy,  
Take my mother home."  
I think I heard him say  
When he was giving up the Ghost  
I think I heard him say  
"Take my mother home."*

## **The Fourth Word**

Mark 15: 33-34

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Elo-i, elo-i, lama sabach-thani?" which means, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

### **Meditation on the Fourth Word**

#### **Extinguishing the Candle**

Lord Jesus - you gave your life for us.

**You suffered and died that we might be made whole.**

## **Hymn No. 221**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

## **The Fifth Word**

John 19: 28

After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said to fulfill the scripture, "I thirst."

### **Meditation on the Fifth Word**

#### **Extinguishing the Candle**

Lord Jesus - you gave your life for us.

**You suffered and died that we might be made whole.**

## **Anthem**

Silent Tears

Craig Courtney

*She was silent, not a word.  
Only tears would speak for her.  
Though her heart was surely broken,  
Silent tears are all that's spoken*

*She recalls her tears of joy:  
Bethlehem, her precious boy.  
Love was born to bring us life,  
Now silent tears behold His strife.  
One tear flows and then another,  
One from the Son, and then the mother,  
They drop together to the ground,  
Into the dust without a sound.  
She stood and watched her Son defiled.  
She stood and heard the angry crowd.  
No words of hate, revenge or gall,  
Her silent tears would say it all.  
She was silent, not a word.  
Her aching heart could not be heard.  
Only tears, silent tears.*

## **The Sixth Word**

John 19: 29-30

A bowl was there, full of cheap wine mixed with vinegar, so a sponge was soaked in it, put on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted up to his lips. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished."

### **Meditation on the Sixth Word**

#### **Extinguishing the Candle**

Lord Jesus - you gave your life for us.

**You suffered and died that we might be made whole.**

## **Trio**

Trio Sonata from "The Musical Offering" (III. Andante) J.S. Bach  
Soloists - Simon Walsh, Flute and Maxfield Panish, Violin

## **The Seventh Word**

Luke 23: 46

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

### **Meditation on the Seventh Word**

#### **Extinguishing the Candle**

Lord Jesus - you gave your life for us.

**You suffered and died that we might be made whole.**

## **Silent Meditation**

(Translation)

*O all you who walk on the road, pay attention and see:  
If there be any sorrow like my sorrow.  
Pay attention, all people, and look at my sorrow:  
If there be any sorrow like my sorrow.*

## Responsive Reading

Isaiah 53: 4-6, 9

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. **But he was wounded for our transgressions and he was bruised for our iniquities. Upon him was the chastisement that made us whole.** All we like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all. **He was assigned a grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death, although he had done no violence nor was any deceit in his mouth.**

\* Hymn No. 218

Were You There?

## Prayer of Dedication

Lord God, you have given us everything. **You have not held anything back.** Help us in like manner to give of ourselves. **Sanctify us Christ's name. Bless us and all that we think, feel, say, and do that we, like Jesus, may be a blessing unto others,** we ask this and all things that we ask of you through Him, saying the prayer that he taught us...

### *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 trespasses  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom and the power  
And the glory, forever. Amen.**

## Benediction

Depart now in peace - and may the Spirit of Christ, go with you, may his faith and trust abide within you, and may the knowledge of his love support you both now and forevermore.

**Response** (please be seated)

Christ, We Do All Adore Thee

Theodore Dubois

*Christ, we do all adore thee,  
And we do praise thee forever,  
For on the holy cross hast thou  
The world from sin redeemed.*

copyright - Rev. Richard J. Fairchild - Spirit Networks, 1999-2006

## Announcements

### HOLY WEEK

#### **Easter Sunday, Resurrection of Our Lord - March 31**

7 am Sunrise Service at Bowne Park - Meet by the lake

10:30 am Easter Worship- In the Sanctuary

Join us for an Easter Egg hunt after the service!

### NEXT SUNDAY

March 31st, 2024 - Easter Sunday

Wandering Heart: "And I Hope"

Focal Scriptures: Luke 24: 1-12

Theme Connections: We might expect that, after denying Christ, Peter would cower in shame—or perhaps even run away in an attempt to leave his past behind him. Instead, when he hears the news from the women, he doesn't dismiss them like the other disciples. He gets up and runs to the tomb. When he peers into the empty tomb and sees the linen cloth, he is filled with awe. Even after the biggest failures, even after the worst-case scenario has happened, can we run toward hope? Like Peter,

will we keep going? Will we keep looking for God in our midst?





## **CONCERT**

On Saturday, April 6th, our brilliantly talented Director of Music, Sean Cotty, will present an organ recital dedicated to the masterworks of J.S. Bach. This highly anticipated concert will take place at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary of COTH. There will be a gala reception to follow in Gessner Hall. Don't miss it! Invite your friends and neighbors!

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Last Lenten Bible Study- Tuesday, April 2nd at 7 pm on Zoom - Psalm 19 - *Hands Pause, Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell  
Check the Weekly Email for Zoom information!

## **OFFERING**

If you feel called to give, offering plates are located in the rear of the sanctuary, where you can leave your offering upon entry or exit of the sanctuary.

## **BARGAIN BOUTIQUE**

The Boutique is closed this Saturday 3/30 for Easter weekend. We will reopen April 6th. The Bargain Boutique is open on Saturdays from 10 am- 1 pm. Donations are accepted on Saturdays only. \*We are unable to accept: Electronics, TVs, Furniture, Textbooks, and Large Toys/Stuffed Animals\* Find us on Instagram @cothbargainboutique for a fun look inside the Boutique and to find out about special sales and hidden gems!

## **JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST!**

Be sure to sign up for our email list to keep up with the latest Church on the Hill happenings through the weekly email and the Beacon. A sign-up form can be found on **[churchonthehill.org](http://churchonthehill.org)**

## Prayer Requests

*If you would like to add a loved one to the prayer list, or if your loved one no longer needs to be on the prayer list, please contact the church office at [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)*

Karin Bennitt

The Bermudez Family

Diane Blagburn

Hank Boechmann

Katie and Clayton Buckley

The Cappellano Family

Richard D.

Thomas Degnen

Gabriel DeMelo

Lucas Ditta

Joanne Dunckhahn

Alison Friedman

Michael Gittens

Adam Gonzalez

The Greer Family

Bob Iovale

Rudy Jakob

Mary Kansfield

The Family of

Rev. Norm Kansfield

Mike Kenny

Susan Laurita

Donna Lemay

The Liao/ Lin Family

Gessa Markantonis

Rose McLain

Donna McLernon

Christian Mender

Kathy Mender-Murphy

Paul Mobius

Mary Moder

Lillian Mukai

Marti and Tom Pearce

The Family of Rev. Bob Perless

Iris and Ralph Prager

Nina Proschel

Yvette Sanford

Trevor Sealy

Patrick Sullivan

Ed Surujballi

Virginia Young



The sanctuary is looped for the hard of hearing. In order to connect to the system, please sit in the north set of pews (on your right when you enter the sanctuary) and set your hearing device to the "T" setting.



Nancy Gessner, Victor Han, **Vice Presidents**  
Nancy Gessner, **Clerk**

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- Linda Diez
- Nancy Gessner (VP)
- Victor Han (VP)
- Rhoda Jabbour
- Sarah White

**Deacons**

- Ginny Chan
- Emerson Chen
- Jerry Lutz
- Adriene Toy

**Sean Cotty**, Music Director: [sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org](mailto:sean.cotty@churchonthehill.org)  
**Amanda Sudolsky**, Office Administrator: [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)

Phone: (718) 358-3671  
Email: [office@churchonthehill.org](mailto:office@churchonthehill.org)  
[www.churchonthehill.org](http://www.churchonthehill.org)



## GOODFRIDAY

Wandering Heart: "Prone to leave the God I love"

### **The Next Line**

There are some truths that are like the sun,  
if you look at them too long they may burn you.

You may never see the same again.

And yet, nothing can grow without the sun.

So we summon our courage  
and speak the truth of our lives.

We sing, prone to leave the God I love.

We let the honesty of those words crack our hearts in two.

We admit it to our fight-or-flight, boomerang nature,  
and before the grief even begins to pass,

God is there.

God is turning toward us,  
closing the distance,  
inviting us to sing  
the next line of the song.

*A poem by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).*