

# Tenebrae

Good Friday Service

April 7, 2023

7:30 pm



GOOD  
FRIDAY

The Church on the Hill

167-07 35th Ave.

Flushing, NY 11358

(718) 358-3671

[www.churchonthehill.org](http://www.churchonthehill.org)

## The Church on the Hill

Victor Han, *Vice President of Consistory*

Sean Cotty, *Director of Music, Organ*

Emerson Chen, *Conductor*

Jeremy Parker, *Soprano*

Daniel Maimone, *Tenor*

Brian Goff, *Baritone*

Emily John, *Harp*

David Gailing, *Clarinet*

Eli Kaynor, *Cello*

Daniel Haskins, *Percussion*

**Prelude**                      Improvisation on "Pange Lingua"                      Sean Cotty

**Choral Prelude**                      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 haf' to die no more.  
I'll die on Calvary,  
Won't haf' to die no more.  
Then I'll die easy,  
Take my mother home."*

*I think I heard him say  
when he was givin' up the Ghost  
I think I heard him say  
"Take my mother home."*

## **The Call to Worship**

Victor Han

## **Hymn No. 221**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

## **Scripture Reading:**

Matthew 27: 32-44

p. 810-811

## **The Evening Prayer**

Dear God, We remember today, the pain and suffering of the cross, and all that Jesus was willing to endure, so we could be set free. He paid the price, such a great sacrifice, to offer us the gift of eternal life.

### ***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.***

Help us never to take for granted this huge gift of love on our behalf. Help us to be reminded of the cost of it all. Forgive us for being too busy, or distracted by other things, for not fully recognizing what you freely given, what you have done for us.

### ***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.***

Thank you, Lord, that by your wounds we are healed. Thank you that because of your huge sacrifice we can live free. Thank you that sin

and death have been conquered and that your Power is everlasting.

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.***

Thank you that we can say with great hope, "It is finished..." For we know what's still to come. And death has lost its sting. We praise you for you are making all things new and as we say Amen, we end with the prayer that the Lord has given to 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.**

***The Seven Last Words of Christ***

Théodore Dubois (1837-1924)

**Introduction**

All ye people traveling on life's highway, hearken to me, look upon me, is there sorrow like unto my sorrow? For the Lord Omnipotent the Almighty hath dealt bitterly with me and my people; call me nevermore Naomi, evermore call me Mara.

**The First Word**

*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.* Then cried out the people: "He of death is guilty, take Him, take Him, let us crucify Him; let His blood be on us and on our children." Then crucified they Jesus and the two thieves, one on His right hand and the other one on His left hand.

## **The Second Word**

*Verily, thou today, shalt be with me in paradise. Amen, so I tell thee.*  
O Lord, remember me, when Thou comest into Thy kingdom.

## **The Third Word**

*Woman, behold thy son.* See the holy mother sighing, watches as her son is dying, bleeding on the cruel cross. Ah! Who could see her without weeping, as she kneeleth vigil keeping, bowed by her grief and fearful loss?

## **The Fourth Word**

*O my Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?* All those who were my friends have now forsaken me, and they that hate me have risen up against me, and they have all betrayed me whom I have loved. Even the vine that once I planted and that oft I tended: why has all thy sweetness more and more turned to bitterness, that thou dost crucify me?

## **The Fifth Word**

*I thirst!* And the Jews then passing by Him, railed on Him and mocked Him, both wagging their heads at Him, and crying to Him: Ah! Thou that wouldst destroy the temple, if Thou be Jesus, Son of the Father, now from the cross descend Thou, that we may see Thee and believe Thee, when we behold it. If Thou art King over Israel save Thyself now.

## **The Sixth Word**

*Father, into Thy keeping I commend my soul.* For Thou art my Father and my God, Thou art my Saviour in time of trouble. For Thou art my shield and buckler, my Saviour in time of trouble, my Saviour, my strong salvation.

## **The Seventh Word**

Once more spake Jesus, crying with a loud voice: *"It is finished!"* And Jesus bowed down His head and yielded up the ghost. And about the sixth hour there was darkness, obscuring the sun's light,

and darkness covered the earth until about the ninth hour; and the veil of the temple was rent, and the trembling earth did quake, rocks were rending, graves were opening and saints arose.

## **The Prayer**

Thee we adore, O Saviour, bless Thee and praise Thee for ever. For on Thy holy cross Thou has the world from sin redeemed.

*Please remain in your seat for a moment of silent meditation,  
and then depart in silence.*

## **Good Friday Offering**

In your bulletin, you will find an envelope for your offering. While you are under no obligation to give, if you feel so moved, you may place your offering in the envelope and leave it in the plate at the back of the sanctuary. We thank you for your presence and your generous support of Church on the Hill.

*Tonight's special music was brought to you in large part by a generous donation from Loretta McCaffrey.*

## **About the Music**

The lyrics to “Cross Cry” are based on an American Spiritual. The music is by Gilbert M. Martin (1941-), an American composer with hundreds of works to his credit. Cross Cry is noted for its “dramatic” impact. Certainly, some of the power of the work comes from its first-person construction – “*I think I heard him [Jesus] say...*” – putting us all there with Jesus in his Good Friday Passion. Then the lyrics change and Jesus speaks, “*Then I’ll die easy...*” This back-and-forth between the crowd and Jesus continues until the women sing, “*I think I heard him say when he was givin’ up the ghost...*” In his final plea, Jesus asks his disciples to, “*...please take my mother home.*”

On Good Friday we offer the sacred cantata "*The Seven Last Words of Christ*" by the French composer Theodore Dubois (1837-1924). The "words" are not really individual words but rather brief sayings. For the Cantata, Dubois incorporates as an Introduction, *O Vos Omnes* (*All ye people*) a text taken from Lamentations 1:12, so there are eight movements in the work. In addition to the sayings, Dubois adds Bible text to offer more of the story of Jesus's passion.

The following is the traditional order of the words with the scriptural reference. We use here the King James translation since it is the Bible text Dubois would have used.

1. Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. Luke 23:34 (Forgiveness)
2. Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise. Luke 23:43 (Salvation)
3. Woman, behold thy son! and Behold thy Mother. John 19:26-27 (Relationship)
4. My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me? Mathew 27:46 and Mark 15:34 (Abandonment)
5. I thirst. John 19:28 (Distress)
6. It is finished. John 19:30 (Triumph)
7. Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. Luke 23:46 (Reunion)

There is no single account that includes all the sayings. A great deal of Biblical scholarship discusses the reasons for the different versions of the Crucifixion, but exploring those reasons is beyond the scope of this note.

