



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
with the Congregations of

Riviera Presbyterian Church
5275 Sunset Drive
Miami, Florida 33143
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Coral Gables Congregational UCC
3010 De Soto Boulevard
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
305.448.7421



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Friday, March 29, 2024

12:00 p.m.

**Please stand as you are able*

English translation is in parenthesis and italicized

GATHERING MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

Dr. Greg Taylor, piano

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Laurinda Hafner,
Senior Pastor, Coral Gables UCC

A TIME OF QUIET PREPARATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leaders: The Rev. Mairolet Vega (Pastor of Spanish Language Worship at Gables UCC)
Gabriele Kieren-Moghani (Representative of the German Language Ministry of Gables UCC)
The Rev. Lisa LeSueur. Assistant Pastor of Congregational and Staff Care of Gables UCC

One: Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

Many: **The love of Jesus refused compromise with the powerful.**

One: El amor nos llama, el amor del crucificado nos llama.

Many: **The love of Jesus took the tough but faithful road.**

One: Die Liebe ruft uns hier, die Liebe des Gekreuzigten.

Many: **The love of Jesus endured the rejection of his friends.**

One: Love calls us here, the love of the Crucified One.

Many: **We long for a safe and sacred space to sit with our grief and our questions.**

One: Jesus Christ, holy friend, we know that you are here with us.

Many: **May we be here with you.**

Please stand as you are able for the opening hymn.

***OPENING HYMN**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

- (1) When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

- (2) See from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

- (3) Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

You may be seated.

REFLECTION

Readers: The Rev. Melanie Marsh, Pastor of Riviera Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Megan Smith, Associate Pastor of Coral Gables UCC

We come here today to remember a man. A man...
who had dreams,
who had those dreams shattered,
who needed time to think and pray,
who knew he was likely to die for what he believed...
A man of extraordinary religious insight.
A man who did die – a cruel death.
On this day we look at the cross, and we remember...
the betrayal of friendship and its consequences,
the casual cruelty of Roman authority and execution,
and how unreliable others proved to be in a crisis.

On this day may we also remember
that religious bigotry, cruelty and unreliability
are still a part of our everyday lives.
On this day, then, may we learn some new precepts for living...
do not avoid contact with suffering,
or close your eyes before suffering;
do not maintain anger or hatred;
do not say untruthful things for the sake of personal interest,
or to impress people;
do not live with a vocation that is harmful to humans and nature...
On this day we remember
and we confess how hard it is to follow in the way of Jesus.

HYMN OF CONFESSION

in English and Spanish

Si Fui Motivo de Dolor, Oh Dios

(1) If I have been the source of pain, O God;
if to the weak I have refused my strength;
if, in rebellion, I have strayed away.
Forgive me, God.

(2) Si vana y fútil mi palabra fue;
si al que sufría en su dolor dejé;
no me condenes, tú, por mi maldad,
¡perdón, oh Dios!

*(If I have spoken words of cruelty, if I have left some suffering unrelieved,
condemn not my insensitivity, forgive me, God.)*

(3) If I've insisted on a peaceful life,
far from the struggles that the gospel brings,
when you prefer to guide me to the strife,
forgive me, God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lisa LeSueur, leader

One: When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation,
which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us
make our confession together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**We confess to You, O God,
that we have betrayed and denied You,
forgotten and doubted You.**

**When our faith is tested, we wonder where You are.
When we see injustice in the world, we often stand by,
we turn our backs; we ignore the cries of others.**

**We confess that again and again we deny You
and betray You with our silence
when we fail to proclaim Your Good News,
when we fail to live out Your teachings
and love our neighbor as ourselves.**

Forgive us, O God.

**Help us to remember Your sacrifice, Your love,
and to know Your forgiveness.
In the name of the One who lived, who was crucified,
and who lives again, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leaders: Mairolet Vega, Gabriele Kieren-Moghani, Lisa LeSueur

One: O God erschaffe uns mit reinem Herzen und mache unseren Geist rein. Heile uns, denn wir tragen Deine Hoffnung.

(Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew right and wholesome spirits within us. Restore us to the joy of your salvation, for it is in you that we place our hope.)

One: He venido para que tengas vida y con abundancia. Te doy tesoros, los cuales no son para que los guardes y proteges, sino para que los utilices por el bien, la esperanza, sanidad y restauración del prójimo.

(I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly. I have given to you treasures, which are not to be collected, stored, and locked up - they are gifts to be used for others, for hope, healing, restoration.)

One: By love we are liberated from the pain of our pasts.
Freed to live into the fullness of our humanity.
Remember that the power to forgive is yours.
In the name of God our Creator, Christ our Liberator, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter: be who you were created to be!

ALL: Amen. Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE

Si Fui Motivo de Dolor, Oh Dios

Escucha, oh Dios, mi humilde confesión
Y líbrame de tentación sutil;
preserva siempre mi alma en tu redil.
Amén. Amén.

(Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer, and free me from temptation's subtle snare, with tender patience, lead me to your care. Amen. Amen.)

THE CRUCIFIXION

Matthew 27: 1-10
Read by Mairolet Vega

in Spanish

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor. When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, 'I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us? See to it yourself.' Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself.

Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, 'Are you a King?' Jesus said, 'You say so.' But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

Then Pilate said to him, 'Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?' But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. At that time, they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas.

So after they had gathered, Pilate said to them, 'Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?' For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.

While he was sitting on the judgement seat, his wife sent word to him, 'Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him.' Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.'

Pilate said to them, 'Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?' All of them said, 'Let him be crucified!' Then he asked, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Let him be crucified!'

CHORAL RESPONSE

Gather at the Mercy Tree

Dengler

Vocal Quartet: Nicole Bartholomew, Mark Hart, Greg Jackson, Charmyn Kirton

Matthew 27: 24-31

in German

Gabriele Kieren-Moghani, reader

So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, 'I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.' Then the people as a whole answered, 'His blood be on us and on our children!' So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort 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!' 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.

HYMN

O Sacred Head Now Wounded
You may remain seated for the hymn.

in German and English

(1) O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden, voll Schmerz und voller Hohn,
 O Haupt, zum Spott gebunden mit einer Dornenkron;
 O Haupt, sonst schön gezieret
 Mit höchster Ehr' und Zier,
 Jetzt aber höchst schimpfieret: Gegrüßet sei'st du mir!

*(O Sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down.
 Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, your only crown,
 How pale you are with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
 How does your visage languish which once was bright as morn!)*

(2) What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest friend;
 For this your dying sorrow, your pity without end?
 May I be yours forever; and though my days be few,
 O Savior, let me never outlive my love for you!

Matthew 27: 32-64
 Megan Smith, reader

in English

As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; then they sat down there and kept watch over him. Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King.'

Matthew 27:45-50
 Melanie Marsh, reader

in English

From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And about three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' At once one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

RESPONSE

Cross Cry
 Vocal Quartet

Gilbert Martin

REPROACHES OF THE CROSS

Led by Megan Smith and Melanie Marsh
 Timpani: Mark Schubert

Historically, the "Reproaches" are a set of sung verses addressed by the Crucified Savior to his unfaithful people, forming part of the Passion liturgy. They are built on passages from the Hebrew Scriptures. The congregation is invited to respond after each reproach.

Leader: My people,
What have I done to you?
How have I offended you?
Answer me!

**Unison: Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Have mercy upon us.**

Leader: Answer me!

**Unison: Holy God,
Holy and mighty,
Have mercy upon us...**

PRAYER

Laurinda Hafner

***HYMN**

Were You There?

*As we sing you are invited to join in the processional as it passes your pew.
Our service will conclude outside at the cross.*

*For those with us online, thank you for sharing in this service today.
We now await the good news of Easter...*

(1) Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

(2) Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

(3) Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

***DRAPING THE CROSS IN MEMORIAM**

***BENEDICTION**

Laurinda Hafner

Please Depart in Silence