



April 18. 2025

# GOOD FRIDAY

Organized by the Dismantling Racism Team &  
Hosted by St. John United Church, Columbia, MD

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Prelude

“Jesus Paid it All” (Instrumental)

*Marie Herrington*

## Welcome & Call to Worship

*Rev. Steve Nofel, SJU Interim Pastor*

One: Please join me in the words of Psalm 22, echoed by Jesus on the cross...

**All: My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?**

One: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

**All: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. Lord have mercy...**

## Special Music

“I Give Myself Away”

*Lea Gilmore, soloist, Marie Herrington, piano*

*Bobby Hall, dance*

## Prayer of Confession

In Unison

*TJ Denley*

**God of the long night,  
Thank you for being a God not just of solidarity but of deep  
and raw emotion. A God who did not endure violence in  
silence but who spoke and cried as your body was broken**

on the cross. Help us to understand that our memory of you becomes more whole when we remember you alongside the injustices with which you suffered in solidarity: the hunger, the abuse, the loneliness of the world. Today let us grieve the path of the cross - illness, violence, alienation, the degradation of the land, and all pain unspoken. Let us weep and rest. Reveal yourself to us, remind us of a God who knows the weight of oppression, and help us to believe that you truly are with us. That your cause is our cause - no less than justice and liberation in life and death. Amen

## Breath Prayer

Inhale: **This is too much to hold**

Exhale: **I can grieve with God**

Moment of Silence

## Assurance of Forgiveness

*TJ Denley*

One: Let your soul receive this rest: The God who became seamstress, the God who knelt in the garden to make clothes for Eve and Adam, covers you now. As the divine meets your shame with tenderness, you are freed to stand before the earth, neighbor, your God and yourself.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen**

## Offering Moment

*Guy Moody*



Today's offering benefits the  
Presbytery of Baltimore's  
"Reparative Actions Fund."

# Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Jessie Lowry

## Hymn

"Stay With Me" #204

Glory to God (Taize)

**Stay with me; remain here with me; watch and pray.**

**Watch and pray.**

Sung 4 times

## Sermon

Repentance and Reconciliation

*Rev. Cat Goodrich and Ruling Elder Charese Jordan Moore*

**The Call: John 15:9-14**

*TJ Denley*

*How are we called to love one another?*

*What are we called to sacrifice out of love?*

**The Failure: Mark 14:32-35, 37-38a**

*Guy Moody*

*Are we asleep and unaware of the harmful histories – and histories of harm - we inherit?*

*How can we heed calls to Wake Up?*

**The Betrayal: Matthew 26:45b-50**

*Bobby Hall*

*In what ways do we betray one another?*

*What stories of betrayal are hidden in your congregation or community's history?*

**The Condemnation: Luke 23:13-21**

*Ray Meute*

*How are you complicit in allowing the sin of racism to persist?*

**The Crucifixion: Luke 23:26, 32-34, 44-46, 49**

*Susan Krehbiel*

*What suffering are we called to witness, and of what sin must we repent, in order to make transformation and new life possible?*

## **Called to Transformation: Romans 12:1-2**

*Lea Gilmore*

*How do the events of Good Friday open our eyes to see one another differently?*

*How are we called to work together for our shared liberation?*

### **Hymn**

“Were You There” #228

Glory to God

**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?**

**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?**

**Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

**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?**

## Benediction

*Rev. Cat Goodrich and Ruling Elder Charese Jordan Moore*

**Please exit the sanctuary in silence.**

## Postlude

“They Crucified My Lord (and He Never Said a Mumblin)”

*Laura Sligh, soloist & Lea Gilmore, piano*

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Today’s liturgy and prayers were taken from “Black Liturgies”  
by Cole Arthur Riley (Convergent Books, 2024).

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## Acknowledgements

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**Rev. TJ Denley**, *Validated Ministry*

**Ruling Elder Lea Gilmore**, *Govans Presbyterian Church*

**Rev. Cat Goodrich**, *Faith Presbyterian Church*

**Ruling Elder Bobby Hall**, *Faith Presbyterian Church*

**Ruling Elder Charese Jordan Moore**, *Knox Presbyterian Church and DRT Co-Chair*

**Ruling Elder Susan Krehbiel**, *Catonsville Presbyterian Church & Presbytery staff*

**Rev. Jessie Lowry**, *Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church*

**Rev. Ray Meute, Jr.**, *Highland Presbyterian Church*

**Ruling Elder Guy Moody**, *St. John United & DRT Co-Chair*

**Rev. Steve Nofel**, *SJU Interim Pastor*

**Laura Sligh**, *guest soloist*

**Marie Herrington**, *guest pianist*

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