



# The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

“An Inclusive Church Family Loving, Sharing, and Serving Christ.”



**Good Friday**  
**April 18, 2025**

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## A TIME TO GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

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\*All who are able, please stand. **Bold** print denotes congregational response

### WE GATHER IN SILENCE

*As we continue our worship this afternoon, we invite you to prepare your hearts and minds as we gather in silence.*

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## A TIME OF PREPARATION

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### CALL TO WORSHIP

My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?

**We cry by day, but you do not answer;  
and by night, but find no rest.**

Yet in you our ancestors trusted.

They trusted you and you delivered them.

**So we praise you among the great congregation,  
telling all of our siblings of God's deliverance.**

All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and return to the Lord.

**Dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and God rules over the nations.**

HYMN 221

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

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## A TIME OF PROCLAMATION

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### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 52:13- 53:12

HYMN 210

*Lord, Why Have you Forsaken Me*  
(Psalm 22)

DISTRESS

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 4:14–16; 5:7–9

GOSPEL LESSON

John 18:1–19:42

### PRAYER

*Following a brief silence*

**Merciful God, you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross. Save us from hardness of heart, that, seeing him who died for us, we may repent, confess our sin, and receive your overflowing love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### MEDITATION

HYMN 223

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

HAMBURG

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## A TIME OF LAMENT

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### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND LORD'S PRAYER\*

Holy One, we are here...

May we not turn away from the spectacle and tragedy of your death.

**Draw us to the pain of your cross.**

When we judge the crowd...

May we be nonanxious witnesses to the pain of the world, able to respond in compassion.

**Draw us to the peace of your cross.**

We see your body...

We seek your wholeness, your *shalom*, for the people we know to be in need of healing.

**Draw us to the healing of your cross.**

Your cross is a symbol for the whole church...

Bless our siblings in other faith traditions as well,  
that in our embrace, the world may see a path toward peace.

**Draw us to the unity of your cross.**

Your cross embraces all of creation...

As you stretch out your arms on the cross, reach into lives in need of your rescue.

**Draw us to the rescue of your cross.**

We hear your voice crying out ...

May we recognize and acknowledge the pain of their lives.

**Draw us to the cries of your cross.**

Hear our voices now, as we bring all our prayers, pain, and hope before you, praying together:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.**

**Amen.**

### SILENCE

### THE SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS\*

*After each reproach, the following response is used:*

You have made a cross for your Savior.

**Holy God,**

**we are poured out like water.**

**Holy immortal One,**

**have mercy upon us.**

### HYMN 228

*Were You There*

WERE YOU THERE

*All depart in silence. Our worship will continue on Easter Sunday.*

- *The Solemn Reproaches of the Cross (a modified version is used in our service) are a part of the ancient and ecumenical practice of the Church.*

## Holy Saturday is longer than a day

Holy Saturday  
... is longer than a day.  
For it takes time  
to delve into the depths,  
to feel weightily  
pain and loss and letting go.

It takes time  
to shout and grieve,  
to honour deep within  
the changed reality.

It takes time  
to signify meaning,  
to sense discomfort,  
cathartic tears in flow.

It takes time  
to understand God's love,  
to be aware of His presence,  
knowing you are upheld.

It takes time  
to be prepared,  
to embrace possibilities,  
to believe in hope.

Holy Saturday  
... is longer than a day.

by Judith Jessop  
as found in

Ruth Burgess. *Spring: Liturgical Resources for February, March and April Including Lent and Holy Week.*  
Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 2019.



### The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church

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Website: [www.wcpc-tx.org](http://www.wcpc-tx.org)

Sunday Worship: 8:30am and 11:00am

Sunday School (all ages): 9:45am –10:45am

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. David F. Jones

Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care: The Rev. Laura Grice

