

**MARCH 25, 2016
GOOD FRIDAY**



First Presbyterian Church of West Chester

CHIMES – A call to stillness

Use these moments prior to the Prelude to greet one another briefly. At the ringing of the chimes, please seek the presence of God in stillness and quiet. Please silence cell phones.

ORGAN PRELUDE Berceuse (sur les paroles classiques)

Louis Vierne

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

(from John 19:16-17)

So they took Jesus, and he went out carrying his own cross, to the place of a skull, called in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him.

This is not a day for mourning but for awe, wonder, love and gratitude.

All you who bow in reverence, praise him.

All you daughters of faith, glorify him.

All you sons of faith, stand in awe before him.

***HYMN #223** “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

Hamburg

***PRAYER OF THE DAY** (responsively)

Jesus you took bread and broke it,
You shared it with your friends.

You were broken to feed us with the bread of life.

Jesus you took wine and poured it out,
Grapes crushed and drained of life.

You were crushed and drained of your life blood.

Jesus you prayed fervently in agony of spirit,
That God’s cup of suffering might pass away.

Your sweat fell like drops of blood yet you endured the pain.

You hung upon a tree and were crucified for us,
But looked in compassion on your murderers.

**Look too in compassion on us
who caused your suffering and your death.**

Jesus you died for us and fell as a seed into the ground,
Knowing that your death would produce a plentiful harvest of new life.

**May we too be willing to die to ourselves
that others may find true and eternal life. Amen.**

WELCOME

SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS (responsively)

“...and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.”

Lord have mercy on us.

ANTHEM

“The Crucifixion”

Music by Samuel Barber

Text from The Speckled Book, 12th C.

*“At the cry of the first bird, they began to crucify Thee, O Swan!
Never shall lament cease because of that.
It was like the parting of day from night.
Ah, sore was the suffering borne by the body of Mary’s Son,
but sorer still to Him was the grief which,
for His sake, came upon His Mother.”*

Sarah Dungan, mezzo-soprano

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26:36-56

New Testament, Page 30

***HYMN #218**

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

Herzliebster Jesu

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 26:57-75

New Testament, Page 31

***HYMN #221**

“O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

Passion Chorale

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 27:1-30

New Testament, Page 31

***HYMN #228**

“Were You There?”

African American Spritual

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 27:45-54

New Testament, Page 33

SILENCE

(Please depart in silence after the lights are turned on again)



Please join us for Easter Sunday worship:

- **6:45 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship** w/ communion at Crebilly Farm, 501 West Street Rd in West Chester
- **9:00 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship** at First Pres
(live broadcast on WCHE 1520AM and online at www.firstpreswc.com)
- **10:30 a.m. Traditional Easter Worship** at First Pres

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church. As a community of faith, we strive to “above all, love.” As we worship God together, we pray that you will experience Christ’s presence in our midst, and that he will sustain you in the week ahead. A special welcome goes out to you if you are visiting. If you are with us for the first time, stop by the Welcome Center in the foyer to find out about the many opportunities available to you in the life of our congregation. We hope you will worship with us again next Sunday.

We invite you to sign the Friendship Register, which you will find at the center aisle of each pew. As you pass it to others in your pew, note who is sitting near you, so you may greet them by name. Please note that hearing aids and large print bulletins are available from the ushers. Maps showing available parking are in the racks in the Fellowship Hall.

The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church

Called to love God and one another, First Presbyterian Church responds to God’s grace by following Christ with ministries of hospitality, worship, faith development, service and generosity.

Leading Us in Worship Today:

Greg Stovell, *Pastor*
Marcia Sommers, *Director of Music and Fine Arts*
Joyce Chen, *Organist*

cover image: The Pietà (1498–1499) is a work of Renaissance sculpture by Michelangelo Buonarroti, housed in St. Peter’s Basilica, Vatican City. It is the only piece Michelangelo ever signed.