



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

GOOD FRIDAY

*a service of
silence & sorrow*

Liturgy by Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

GOOD FRIDAY ORDER (TEMPE)

APRIL 7, 2023

12PM & 7PM

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Welcome to our service of silence and sorrow on this Good Friday. We are grateful that you have taken the time to gather together. In our liturgy, we will be sharing in times of silence in three-minute intervals to symbolize the three hours Jesus suffered on the cross before his death.

During our times of silence, do not worry about controlling your thoughts or blocking out the sounds around us. In a world filled with so much noise, silence can be uncomfortable and startling, but it can also be healing and revelatory. If the time feels long, hear that as a prompting from God to open yourself even more. In this silence we meet God in new ways. Listen to your breath, inhale and exhale, and be open to how the Spirit may move your soul.

We will be prompted into silence with the ringing of a chime and invited back by singing the first verse of, "**Were You There**":

Soloist sings intro:

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?

OPENING SILENCE

Let us now fully enter this space of sorrow and silence focused on this question: "What sorrows, both mine and the world's, do I bring into this space?" *Ring the chime.*

Q1: *Dim the lights slightly.*

Pause for three minutes of silence.

At the end of the three minutes, sing verse 1 of

"Were You There?":

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?

LAMENT & GRACE

As we enter the final moments of the life of Christ, we seek not to rush to the resurrection but to sit at the foot of the cross—a place where none of us wants to be, but a space many of us know all too well. So here we are, gathered together—in the discomfort and disruption, in the grief and sorrow, and in the anger and anguish.

As we gather, we also know that the sorrows of the world are created and reinforced by individuals and communities. For all the ways that we have added to the sorrow of others or ourselves, we lament and confess.

As we enter this time of silence, let us reflect on the question: "How have I, or how have we, added to the sorrow around us—personally, communally, and globally?" *Ring the chime.*

Q2: Dim the lights slightly.

Pause for three minutes of silence.

At the end of the three minutes, sing verse 1 of

"Were You There?":

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?

Friends, we are forgiven for even our worst thoughts and deeds;
we are forgiven, not as humans forgive with limit, but as only God is able to
forgive with the Holy One's unimaginable limitlessness.
For this we are grateful; and all God's people say, "Amen!"

LISTEN

Our scripture readings this day come from Matthew chapter 27 which tells the last moments of the life of Jesus. After each reading, we will have a time of silence and reflection on the question: "How is this sorrow known today?"

SCRIPTURE READING #1

Pastor Read: Matthew 27:27-31 (The soldiers mock Jesus)

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ 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 of the Jews!' ³⁰ They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Let us reflect: "How is this sorrow known today?" *Ring the chime.*

Q3: *Dim the lights slightly.*

Pause for three minutes of silence.

At the end of the three minutes, sing verse 1 of

"Were You There?":

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?

SCRIPTURE READING #2

Pastor Read: Matthew 27:32-44 (The crucifixion of Jesus)

³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots; ³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him. ³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read, 'This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.'

³⁸ Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, 'You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' ⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴² 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he wants to; for he said, "I am God's Son."'" ⁴⁴ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

Let us reflect: "How is this sorrow known today?" *Ring the chime.*

Q4: *Dim the lights slightly.*

Pause for three minutes of silence.

At the end of the three minutes, sing verse 1 of

"Were You There?":

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?

SCRIPTURE READING #3

Pastor Read: Matthew 27:45-50 (The death of Jesus)

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ⁴⁶ 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?' ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'This man is calling for Elijah.' ⁴⁸ 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. ⁴⁹ But the others said, 'Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.' ⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

Let us reflect: "How is this sorrow known today?" *Ring the chime.*

Q5: *Dim the lights slightly.*

Pause for three minutes of silence.

At the end of the three minutes, sing verse one of

"Were You There?":

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?

REVERE THE CROSS

In response to the Word, you are invited to bring the sorrows and sufferings of the world to the cross. Because sorrow comes in many forms, we will come forward to the cross and leave our sorrow in different ways: by dropping a stone or nail on the cross, or by extinguishing a candle.

If you need to remain in your seat, we will bring a stone or nail to you for you to hold in your hands as you pray.

After everyone has come forward, another chime will be rung and we will end our time as we started, in silence. After our final three minutes of silence, the chime will be rung three times for the three hours that Christ was on the cross. At the end of the third chime, the space will become dark, and we will all leave in silence.

So let us now offer our sorrows to God. As you make your way to the cross, I invite you to join in singing the second verse of "Were You There?"

Q6: *Dim the lights slightly.*

Sing verse 2 of "Were You There?":

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?

As worshipers continue to move to the cross, pianist/instrumentalist continues playing the tune softly in the background.

When everyone has come forward and returned to their seats, fade the music.

Ring the chime.

Pause for three minutes of silence.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Be Still My Soul" – Shelby Watts & Joni Van Rossum

Ring chime 3 times.

Q7: *Dim the lights as much as you can safely at 3rd chime.*

Depart in silence.



**THIS SERVICE ENDS IN SILENCE. STAY AS LONG AS YOU WISH.
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