

First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon

# Good Friday

March 29, 2024



**Were You There?**

*by Lisle Gwynn Garrity*

Inspired by John 19:1-30

Acrylic painting on canvas with digital drawing

## — ARTIST'S STATEMENT —

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?* This refrain from a well-known Gospel song dances in circles in my mind as I wonder where Peter is when Jesus is crucified. We know that Peter follows Jesus into the courtyard of the High Priest. We know he warms himself by the fire when, again and again, he denies being one of Jesus' disciples. Then Jesus is dragged away—to be tried, sentenced to death, and finally, killed. But where is Peter? *(full statement may be found at the back of the bulletin)*

## — WELCOME —

### **Welcome | We are so glad you joined us tonight for Good Friday**

On this Holy day, we are going to pay close attention to how Peter acts in Jesus' final hours. So much happens in a short amount of time: Jesus predicts Peter's denial, soldiers come and Peter draws his sword, Jesus is arrested and Peter denies him, Peter denies Jesus again and again and the cock crows, then Jesus is crucified and dies. Peter is prone to mess up, to fight, to deny, to leave, to seek safety for himself. Aren't we all? May we lament all the ways we are prone to leave the God we love.

Tonight we invite you to listen to scripture, to join in song, and look at the beautiful art among the walls of the sanctuary. Later in the service there is a time set aside for your personal response. There will be a station where you will come forward to place your fingerprint on the cross.

If you are a visitor, please stop by the welcome table for information about our church. Listening devices and large print bulletins are available from one of our ushers. Please let us know if there is any way we may support or pray for you.

### **Nursery/Toddler Room Available**

The nursery/toddler room located in the narthex is available this evening for children under the age of 4.

### **Join Us!**

#### **3.31 Easter Sunday | 9:30am and Egg Hunt | 11ish**

*He is Risen! Worship followed by coffee fellowship and then a joint Easter Egg Hunt for the young and the young at heart with St. Alban's.*

*Sunday school (ages 4-5th grade) and childcare for infants & toddlers available*

*\*Service will be live streamed on our YouTube channel\**

~ Please see additional announcements at the back of your bulletin ~

# — GATHERING —

## WELCOME

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy God, as we journey through this familiar story

**Help us to understand it anew.**

Show us, O God, where we find ourselves in the narrative,

**Move us toward a more just and compassionate future.**

Let us worship God.

## HYMN: “WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS”

What wondrous love is this

O my soul, O my soul

What wondrous love is this

That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse

for my soul, for my soul

To bear the dreadful curse

for my soul

When I was sinking down,  
sinking down, sinking down

When I was sinking down,

O my soul

When I was sinking down

O how your grace abounds

Christ laid aside His crown

for my soul, for my soul

Christ laid aside His crown

for my soul

To God and to the lamb

I will sing, I will sing

To God and to the lamb

I will sing

To God and to the lamb

who is the great I AM

While millions join the theme

I will sing, I will sing

While millions join the theme

I will sing

And when from death I'm free

I'll sing on, I'll sing on

And when from death

I'm free I'll sing on

And when from death I'm free

I'll sing His love for me

And through eternity

I'll sing on I'll sing on

And through eternity

I'll sing on I'll sing on

## POEM FOR GOOD FRIDAY ~ *written by Kate Bowler and Jessica Ritchie*

Oh dear God,

we are in darker places than we've ever known  
than we ever wanted to be

Our usual strategies of coping aren't working.

We are lost,

We are afraid,

We are fresh out of answers.

Oh God, light the way  
For this whole heart-heavy earth  
For the helpless and hopeless  
For those drowning in grief  
Or fear or depression  
For the tired and harried  
And the at the end of their rope,  
For those weary of their sins  
And those who aren't,  
And for me too

God have mercy.  
Christ have mercy.  
Spirit have mercy.

The thick of dusk has fallen  
and betrayal seems the order of the day

The night when Love itself  
Was handed over  
To brutal ignorance  
And cunning that loves deceit

Oh God, you choose to feel  
What we feel—  
To be spit on, ridiculed, tortured  
And to die all alone  
In your outstretched arms on the cross  
Are you fathering to yourself  
Every hideous thing  
Ever failure, travesty and wrong?

Blessed are we who say  
Yes! Take this pain  
Turn things right side up again  
I can see, only now  
That you will follow me to the end and beyond

The day love died something new was born  
And may we be a people  
Open to the grief, the loss, and then yes  
The rising of the Son



## LAMENT *and* GRACE

What wondrous love is this  
O my soul, O my soul  
What wondrous love is this  
That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul  
To bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul

### SCRIPTURE READING #1 ~ **John 13:1-20**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me.'

"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me."

## **HYMN: “COME THOU FOUNT” ~ vs. 1**

Come Thou fount of every blessing  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace  
Streams of mercy never ceasing  
Call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet  
Sung by flaming tongues above  
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it  
Mount of Thy redeeming love

## **SCRIPTURE READING #2 ~ John 13:31-38**

When he was gone, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once. “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Simon Peter asked him, “Lord, where are you going?” Jesus replied, “Where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later.” Peter asked, “Lord, why can't I follow you now? I will lay down my life for you.” Then Jesus answered, “Will you really lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!”

## **HYMN: “COME THOU FOUNT” ~ vs. 2**

Here I raise my Ebenezer  
Hither by Thy help I'm come  
And I hope by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home

Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wandering from the fold of God  
He to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood

## **SCRIPTURE READING #3 ~ John 18:1-11**

When he had finished praying, Jesus left with his disciples and crossed the Kidron Valley. On the other side there was a garden, and he and his disciples went into it. Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the garden, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and the Pharisees.

They were carrying torches, lanterns and weapons. Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who is it you want?” “Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “I am he,” Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.) When Jesus said, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them,

“Who is it you want?” “Jesus of Nazareth,” they said. Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go.” This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: “I have not lost one of those you gave me.”

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) Jesus commanded Peter, "Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given me?"

### **SONG: "COME AS YOU ARE"**

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been  
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy, O sinner come kneel  
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

#### *Chorus*

Lay down your burdens lay down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home you're not too far  
So lay down your hurt, lay down your heart, come as you are  
There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table, come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary, rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure

#### *Chorus*

There's joy for the morning O sinner be still  
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

#### *Chorus*

### **SCRIPTURE READING #4 ~ John 18:12-18**

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound him and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jewish leaders that it would be good if one man died for the people. Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the servant girl on duty there and brought Peter in. "You aren't one of this man's disciples too, are you?" she asked Peter. He replied, "I am not." It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter also was standing with them, warming himself.

## **SCRIPTURE READING #5 ~ John 18:19-27**

Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded. “If I said something wrong,” Jesus replied, “testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you strike me?” Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas The high priest. Meanwhile, Simon Peter was still standing there warming himself. So they asked him, “You aren’t one of his disciples too, are you?” He denied it, saying, “I am not.” One of the high priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, “Didn’t I see you with him in the garden?” Again Peter denied it, and at that moment a rooster began to crow.

## **HYMN: “COME THOU FOUNT” ~ vs. 3**

O to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I’m constrained to be  
Let Thy goodness like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
  
Prone to wander Lord I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it  
Seal it for thy courts above  
  
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it  
Seal it for thy courts above

## **SCRIPTURE READING #6 ~ John 18:28-40**

Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

So Pilate came out to them and asked, “What charges are you bringing against this man?” “If he were not a criminal,” they replied, “we would not have handed him over to you.” Pilate said, “Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law.”

“But we have no right to execute anyone,” they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus and asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Is that your own idea,” Jesus asked, “or did others talk to you about me?”



“Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?”

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.

“What is truth?” retorted Pilate.

With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him. But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”

They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

## **REFLECTIVE SONG: “WOOD AND NAILS”**

### **SCRIPTURE READING #7 ~ John 19:1-16**

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!”

But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. “Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s

seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. "Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered. Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

### **SCRIPTURE READING #8 ~ John 19:16b-18, 28-30**

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### **SHROUDING OF THE CROSS**

#### **SPIRITUAL: "WERE YOU THERE WHEN YOU CRUCIFIED MY LORD"**

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 cross  
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble  
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb  
Oh, sometimes it cause me to tremble, tremble, tremble  
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb

## — ARTIST’S STATEMENT —

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

This refrain from a well-known Gospel song dances in circles in my mind as I wonder where Peter is when Jesus is crucified. We know that Peter follows Jesus into the courtyard of the High Priest. We know he warms himself by the fire when, again and again, he denies being one of Jesus’ disciples. Then Jesus is dragged away—to be tried, sentenced to death, and finally, killed. But where is Peter?

Since we have to fill in the gaps of the story with our imaginations, this image functions like visual Midrash<sup>13</sup> of Peter’s experience when Jesus dies. I imagine Peter is frozen—with guilt, rage, and regret—still standing by the fire. I imagine he remains there for hours, unable to move, paralyzed by fear. I imagine he mourns privately, pleading for a miracle, praying the worst will not come, crying out again, “God forbid it!” (Matthew 16:22) In the background, the shadow of a cross flickers like flames rising from the charcoal fire.

Whenever I try to make sense of Peter’s actions, I have often thought of attachment theory. Attachment theory, pioneered by British psychologist John Bowlby, explores how a child’s relationship with their caregivers early in life determines how they navigate secure (or insecure) emotional bonds into adulthood. There are four primary attachment styles:<sup>14</sup> anxious (driven by the fear of rejection and abandonment), avoidant (driven by the fear of vulnerability and intimacy), disorganized (exhibiting inconsistent and unpredictable behavior led by distrust), and secure (signified by good self-esteem and seeking support from others). I wonder if Peter shows us the full spectrum of attachment styles throughout his journey. Again and again, Jesus invites him into secure attachment—through catching him when he sinks, offering him food and forgiveness, washing his feet. And yet, Peter often responds with behaviors that might define anxious, avoidant, or disorganized attachment styles: he resists, he pulls away, he draws his sword, he denies knowing Jesus.

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

For Peter, the answer is “no.” He has left the God he loves. However, the good news about attachment theory is that even if you have an anxious, avoidant, or disorganized attachment style, you can gradually—through healthy relationships, vulnerability, and interdependence—find secure attachment.

In this image, God’s river of grace flows out from the cross and spills out before a bereaved Peter. Even in this moment of deep despair, God’s abundance rushes to greet him. Peter’s nets may feel as empty as the day Jesus crawled into his boat (Luke 5:5a), but we know that an abundant feast—around another charcoal fire—shall soon come (John 21:9-14).

— Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

## — THANK YOU —

The Rev. Kim Dawsey-Richardson  
Kathleen Bright, Choir Director  
Megan Benjamin, Director of Worship Arts  
The FPCEC Worship Team  
Peter Benjamin, Heidi and Dennis McKinley  
Ushers

### Scripture Readers

Carlos Correa Bernier, Jeremy Dawsey-Richardson, Anthony Goodman, Cindy Graham,  
Jamey Lewis, Dennis McKinley, George Williams

Alex Ramirez, Sound  
Will Cain, Livestream and Slides

### Our Mission

Connecting people to Jesus and each other.

### Our Vision

To be a spiritually healthy church that reaches out to its congregation, community, and beyond through music, fellowship, and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

### Staff & Contact Information

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