First Presbyterian Church

Huntsville, Tennessee

April 15, 2022: Good Friday

Please silence your cell phones during the worship service.

Prelude

Scripture Reading Isaiah 52:13-53:12

*Call to Worship

Leader: Lord, when we feel sorry for ourselves and think we have sacrificed so much for others,

People: Remind us of what you did for us on the cross.

Leader: Lord, when our patience wears thin and we are ready to give up,

People: Speak to us through the example of your endurance on the cross.

Leader: Lord, when we get angry and feel like fighting back against those who would be our enemies,

People: Help us remember your words to your enemies from the cross, "Father forgive."

Leader: Lord, whenever we suffer in any way,

People: Keep us near the cross.

Leader: Lord, when we are afraid to stand up for what is true and honorable,

People: Strengthen us with the courage with which you went to the cross.

Leader: Lord, when we come to the time of death,

People: Uphold us with the assurance that life did not end for you on the cross.

ALL: Fill us with the hope of resurrection and new life which your cross continues to teach us each day. Amen.

Call to Confession

Leader: As we contemplate the final hours of Jesus' life on this earth, we look upon the cross knowing that it was for us and because of our sin that he endured its pain and suffering. Let us remember his sacrificial gift as we confess our sin.

Confession (unison)

Merciful Savior, out of your great love you willingly laid down your life so that we might be reconciled to you. We are awe-struck by the extravagance of your gift and humbled by the magnitude of your love. We confess that we have failed to "go and do likewise." We have failed to love our neighbor, much less our enemy. We have failed to be salt and light, instead allowing worry, fear and busyness to dull and dim our senses to what you would have us do and be. We have failed to trust you, afraid that you might alter our agendas or require us to sacrifice our time or money. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our casual attitude toward the cross and our forgetfulness of what our sin really cost you.

Assurance of Pardon (unison)

The good news is this: Jesus Christ came into the world to redeem sinners. Hear it and believe -- in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

READING OF THE PROCLAMATION OF THE PASSION

John 18:1 –19:42

Soloist: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Meditate on these words while praying.

- Luke 23:34 To God: *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."*
- Luke 23:43 To the "good thief": *"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

Responsive Reading

Leader: I was there. I saw obscenities marked on a store window.

All: I was there. I saw a group of children make fun of a special needs child.

A brief silence

Soloist: Were you there when they nailed him to a tree?

- John 19:26-27 To Mary, his mother: *"Woman, behold your son"* ... and to John: *"Behold your mother."*
- Mark 15:34, Matt 27:46 To God, his Father: *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*
- John 19:28 To all: *"I thirst."*

Responsive Reading

Leader: I was there. I saw poverty kill pride, ambition, and love.

People: I was there. I saw discrimination deprive people of their dignity.

A brief silence

Soloist: Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

- John 19:30a To the world: *"It is finished."*
- Luke 23:46. To God: *"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."*

Responsive Reading

Leader: I was there. I heard the name of Christ used in vain.

People: I was there. I saw Russians killing Ukrainian women and children in war. I was there. I saw the hungry eyes of a frightened child. I was there.

Closing Reading Psalm 22 Leave in Silence

**Indicates you may stand* . Liturgist: Lee Ann Knudson Soloist: Melissa Ha