

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**April 2, 2021**



*We welcome The Rev. Kit Sherrill  
as our Officiant today.*

**St. Columba's Episcopal Church**

Boothbay Harbor, Maine



## **GOOD FRIDAY**

In this time of the Pandemic, we are changing and being changed.  
What once was urgent in our daily lives is now put on pause.  
Other more immediate ways of living and dying are transforming us.

As we contemplate and experience our collective living and dying,  
we pray that we can be even more unified as One in God's Love all across the world.  
There is great hope in all that is happening in this world, we embrace it all.

Now in these unprecedented times, our world is hushed . . .  
In the quiet and the chaos,  
we're witnessing the wellspring of new life, even in the midst of death.  
All the world is now, perhaps for the first time ever,  
singularly focused on the healing of one another  
and the healing of "this fragile Earth, our island home."

Almost since time began,  
this is also the spirit in which our evenings always have begun.  
At this holy hour of twilight, we are hushed throughout all time,  
breathing in more deeply, lighting our candles, pausing at the end of the day  
together to pray into the love of God's welcoming embrace.

In this widened space at the end of the day,  
our prayers encircle the world continuously.  
We rest into the power of quietness and the healing touch of God.  
As were all those who have gone before us, we too are comforted and calmed  
at this hour of twilight by candlelight, music and prayer.

The Celtic tradition holds that we find God in Christ in our hearts,  
in each other, and in all creation.

As always, we welcome all to join with us in these timeless prayers.  
So come as you are, let down your burdens,  
find your rest in God's expansive Love.  
This love is sweeping over you and all of Creation,  
sweeping 'round and 'round the world  
throughout all time and in all places.

Let us pray, this prayer offered up by our friends in Virginia,

Almighty God: Our times are in your hand. We call upon you in this hour of our need, when we are lonely and must stand apart. Be our strength, O Loving God, our calm in the midst of raging seas, our refuge and our dwelling place. Sanctify to us this time drawn away from others, even as your Son, O God of All Creation, drew away to a lonely place for prayer. Deepen our need of you, dear God, that every breath may be a whisper of the Spirit's prompting, a renewed searching of the deep things of God. Stir up in us the great act of intercession, that we may spend our time apart in prayer for the world you created and sustain. Bless us in our turning toward you, and make us a blessing to those who stand in need of you, the whole fragile earth. All this we ask in the name of great Physician our healer, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<https://mailchi.mp/vts/a-prayer-and-worship-resource-pack-from-vts-2615050>

With God's help, our gifts become the blessings we seek for the world.

## GOOD FRIDAY

### Opening Prayer

BCP pg. 276

Leader: Blessed be our God,

**People:** *For ever and ever. Amen.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Passion John 19:1-34, 36-37, 41-42

#### Jesus Sentenced to Death

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. They kept coming up to him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' and striking him on the face. Pilate went out again and said to them, 'Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.' So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, '**Crucify him! Crucify him!**' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' The Jews answered him, '**We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.**'

Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, '**If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.**'

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' They cried out, '**Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!**' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

### The Crucifixion of Jesus

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.' When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says,

'They divided my clothes among themselves,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.'  
And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

### Jesus' Side is Pierced

Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the sabbath, especially because that sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, 'None of his bones shall be broken.' And again another passage of scripture says, 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

### Jesus is Laid to Rest

Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

**Solo** "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"

*sung by Jerry Homer*

## The Solemn Collects

BCP pg. 277

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

We pray, therefore, for people everywhere according to their needs.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world; that God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace. **Amen.**

*Observe a brief period of silence*

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them; that by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord. **Amen.**

*Observe a brief period of silence*

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind; that God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs. **Amen.**

*Observe a brief period of silence*

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ; that God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience. **Amen.**

*Observe a brief period of silence*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Depart in silence*



*Please note that during this time of pandemic  
St. Columba's building is closed until further notice.  
Donations can be sent to St. Columba's Episcopal Church  
32 Emery Lane, Boothbay Harbor ME 04538*



*The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown  
Bishop of The Diocese of Maine*

*The Rev. Maria J. Hoecker,  
Rector of St. Columba's Episcopal Church*

*Officiant: The Rev. Kit Sherrill*

*Narrator: Patty Colboun*

*Soloist: Jerry Homer*

*Musician, IT, and Sound Engineer: Guy Scott*

*Bulletin Preparation: Gretchen Feblau*

#### **DIocese of MAINE "FAITH IN MAINE" PODCASTS BY PHONE**

The Diocese of Maine "Faith in Maine" podcast (always the most recent episode) is now accessible by telephone!

The permanent phone number to listen to Faith in Maine podcasts is: **207-223-6402**

If you would like to contribute to our online and community ministries, your special gift can be sent to:

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32 Emery Lane  
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Or you can directly send us an online donation through the link on the Episcopal Diocese of Maine home page: <https://www.episcopalmaine.org/about-us/about-us-for-everyone/giving-online>

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