



*Good Friday*, by Leoma Lovegrove.

**April 18, 2025  
6:00 PM  
2700 L Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816**

# PIONEER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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April 18, 2025

Good Friday

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*Welcome! We're very glad you've come to this service today and we pray our experience of worship here will renew and inspire you. If you are not familiar with our practices of worship, the following information may be helpful to you:*

- 1. We are an Open and Affirming congregation. We welcome into full membership, leadership, and participation in our church all persons and their families, of every race, language, age, gender, gender identification and expression, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, economic status, and personal opinion.*
- 2. A cross "+" before a heading denotes standing if you are able:*
- 3. **Bold** print indicates that the congregation reads or sings aloud, in unison;*
- 4. An (\*) indicates the selected hymn is a favorite hymn of the congregation.*
- 5. All Bible readings are read from the New Living Translation (NLT) unless otherwise indicated.*
- 6. Please silence your cell phone ringers;*

**“No matter who you are or where you are in life’s journey,  
you are welcome here!”**

**Prelude**

*Lo, the Full, Final Sacrifice*

Gerald Finzi

**Welcome**

Rev. Drs. David C. Bocock & Mahsea Evans

**+ Call to Worship** (*read responsively*)

Inspired by Psalm 22:1-5

One: The grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?**

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night but find no rest.

**Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

In you, our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

**To you they cried and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.**

## + Opening Hymn

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

## HAMBURG

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross,  
 2 For - bid it, then, that I should boast,  
 3 From sa - cred head, from hands, and feet,  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,

on which the Christ of glo - ry died,  
 save in the death of Christ, my God;  
 sor - row and love of flow min - gled down!  
 that were a pres - ent far too small;

My rich - est gain I count but loss,  
 All the vain things that charm me most,  
 Did e'er such love and sor - row meet,  
 Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,

and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 I sac - ri - fice them to Christ's blood.  
 or thorns com - pose so my rich a crown?  
 de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

## + Opening Prayer

Incarnational God, you are with us. You are always with us. We claim to search for you, yet your presence is steadfast. Help strengthen and encourage us to be with you and one another in forsaken spaces, amid our tears, anger, fears, and uncertainty. Let trust well up in us, fortify us, and embolden us to be vessels of praise and liberation in the world. God be with us tonight as you draw near to us and we draw near to you. Amen

## A Reading from Scripture: John 18:1-18

After saying these things, Jesus crossed the Kidron Valley with his disciples and entered a grove of olive trees. <sup>2</sup>Judas, the betrayer, knew this place, because Jesus had often gone there with his disciples. <sup>3</sup>The leading priests and Pharisees had given Judas a contingent of Roman soldiers and Temple guards to accompany him. Now with blazing torches, lanterns, and weapons, they arrived at the olive grove.<sup>4</sup>Jesus fully realized all that was going to happen to him, so he stepped forward to meet them. “Who are you looking for?” he asked.<sup>5</sup>“Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied. “I am he,” Jesus said. (Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.) <sup>6</sup>As Jesus said “I am he,” they all drew back and fell to the ground! <sup>7</sup>Once more he asked them, “Who are you looking for? “And again they replied, “Jesus the Nazarene.”<sup>8</sup>“I told you that I am he,” Jesus said. “And since I am the one you want, let these others go.” <sup>9</sup>He did this to fulfill his own statement: “I did not lose a single one of those you have given me.” <sup>10</sup>Then Simon Peter drew a sword and slashed off the right ear of Malchus, the high priest’s slave. <sup>11</sup>But Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Shall I not drink from the cup of suffering the Father has given me?”<sup>12</sup>So the soldiers, their commanding officer, and the Temple guards arrested Jesus and tied him up. <sup>13</sup>First they took him to Annas, since he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest at that time. <sup>14</sup>Caiaphas was the one who had told the other Jewish leaders, “It’s better that one man should die for the people.”<sup>15</sup>Simon Peter followed Jesus, as did another of the disciples. That other disciple was acquainted with the high priest, so he was allowed to enter the high priest’s courtyard with Jesus.

<sup>16</sup>Peter had to stay outside the gate. Then the disciple who knew the high priest spoke to the woman watching at the gate, and she let Peter in. <sup>17</sup>The woman asked Peter, “You’re not one of that man’s disciples, are you?” “No,” he said, “I am not.” <sup>18</sup>Because it was cold, the household servants and the guards had made a charcoal fire. They stood around it, warming themselves, and Peter stood with them, warming himself.

## **Choral Anthem**

*Behold the Love of Jesus*

John Carter

The combined choirs of FUMC and Pioneer UCC

Dr. John Hillebrandt and Dr. Elliot Jones, directors.

## **A Reading from Scripture: John 18:19-32**

Inside, the high priest began asking Jesus about his followers and what he had been teaching them. <sup>20</sup>Jesus replied, “Everyone knows what I teach. I have preached regularly in the synagogues and the Temple, where the people gather. I have not spoken in secret. <sup>21</sup>Why are you asking me this question? Ask those who heard me. They know what I said.” <sup>22</sup>Then one of the Temple guards standing nearby slapped Jesus across the face. “Is that the way to answer the high priest?” he demanded. <sup>23</sup>Jesus replied, “If I said anything wrong, you must prove it. But if I’m speaking the truth, why are you beating me?” <sup>24</sup>Then Annas bound Jesus and sent him to Caiaphas, the high priest. <sup>25</sup>Meanwhile, as Simon Peter was standing by the fire warming himself, they asked him again, “You’re not one of his disciples, are you? “He denied it, saying, “No, I am not.” <sup>26</sup>But one of the household slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Didn’t I see you out there in the olive grove with Jesus?” <sup>27</sup>Again Peter denied it. And immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>28</sup>Jesus’ trial before Caiaphas ended in the early hours of the morning. Then he was taken to the headquarters of the Roman governor. His accusers didn’t go inside because it would defile them, and they wouldn’t be allowed to celebrate the Passover. <sup>29</sup>So Pilate, the governor, went out to them and asked, “What is your charge against this man?” <sup>30</sup>“We wouldn’t have handed him over to you if he weren’t a criminal!” they retorted. <sup>31</sup>“Then take him away and judge him by your own law,” Pilate told them. “Only the Romans are permitted to execute someone,” the Jewish leaders replied. <sup>32</sup>(This fulfilled Jesus’ prediction about the way he would die.)

## First Pastoral Reflection

Rev. Dr. David C. Bocock

### A Reading from Scripture: John 18:33 - 19:16a

Then Pilate went back into his headquarters and called for Jesus to be brought to him. "Are you the king of the Jews?" he asked him.<sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, "Is this your own question, or did others tell you about me?"<sup>35</sup> "Am I a Jew?" Pilate retorted. "Your own people and their leading priests brought you to me for trial. Why? What have you done?"<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, "My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. If it were, my followers would fight to keep me from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But my Kingdom is not of this world."<sup>37</sup> Pilate said, "So you are a king?" Jesus responded, "You say I am a king. Actually, I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. All who love the truth recognize that what I say is true."<sup>38</sup> "What is truth?" Pilate asked. Then he went out again to the people and told them, "He is not guilty of any crime."<sup>39</sup> But you have a custom of asking me to release one prisoner each year at Passover. Would you like me to release this 'King of the Jews'?"<sup>40</sup> But they shouted back, "No! Not this man. We want Barabbas!" (Barabbas was a revolutionary.)

Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip.<sup>2</sup> The soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they put a purple robe on him.<sup>3</sup> "Hail! King of the Jews!" they mocked, as they slapped him across the face.<sup>4</sup> Pilate went outside again and said to the people, "I am going to bring him out to you now, but understand clearly that I find him not guilty."<sup>5</sup> Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said, "Look, here is the man!"<sup>6</sup> When they saw him, the leading priests and Temple guards began shouting, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" "Take him yourselves and crucify him," Pilate said. "I find him not guilty."<sup>7</sup> The Jewish leaders replied, "By our law he ought to die because he called himself the Son of God."<sup>8</sup> When Pilate heard this, he was more frightened than ever.<sup>9</sup> He took Jesus back into the headquarters again and asked him, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave no answer.<sup>10</sup> "Why don't you talk to me?" Pilate demanded. "Don't you realize that I have the power to release you or crucify you?"

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, “You would have no power over me at all unless it were given to you from above. So the one who handed me over to you has the greater sin.”<sup>12</sup> Then Pilate tried to release him, but the Jewish leaders shouted, “If you release this man, you are no ‘friend of Caesar.’ Anyone who declares himself a king is a rebel against Caesar.”<sup>13</sup> When they said this, Pilate brought Jesus out to them again. Then Pilate sat down on the judgment seat on the platform that is called the Stone Pavement (in Hebrew, *Gabbatha*).<sup>14</sup> It was now about noon on the day of preparation for the Passover. And Pilate said to the people, “Look, here is your king!”<sup>15</sup> “Away with him,” they yelled. “Away with him! Crucify him!” “What? Crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the leading priests shouted back.<sup>16</sup> Then Pilate turned Jesus over to them to be crucified.

**Choral Anthem**

*Crucifixus*

Antonio Lotti

*The stripping of the Chancel begins.*

**Second Pastoral Reflection**

Rev. Dr. Mahsea Evans



## Hymn

## Were You There?

## Traditional spiritual

1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 3 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry? Were you there?  
 4 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?  
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?  
 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

O some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there?  
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?  
 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

## **A Reading from Scripture: John 19:31-42**

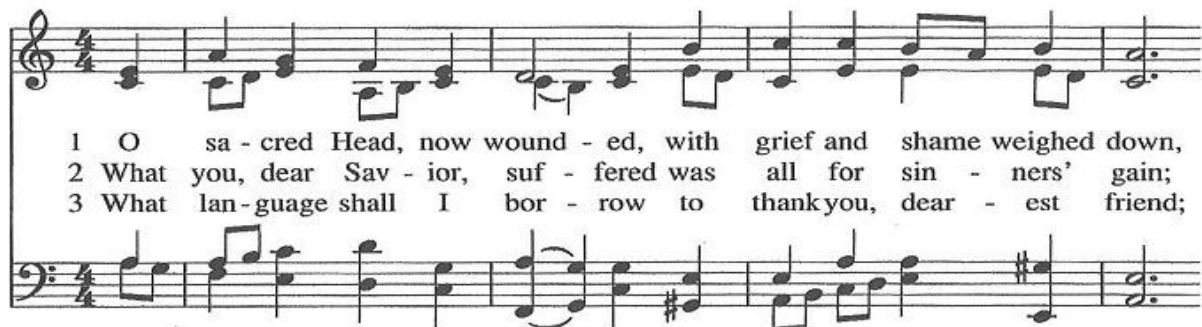
It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn't want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath, because it was Passover week). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. <sup>32</sup> So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs. <sup>34</sup> One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out. <sup>35</sup> (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also may continue to believe. <sup>36</sup> These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken," <sup>37</sup> and "They will look on the one they pierced." <sup>38</sup> Afterward Joseph of Arimathea, who had been a secret disciple of Jesus (because he feared the Jewish leaders), asked Pilate for permission to take down Jesus' body. When Pilate gave permission, Joseph came and took the body away. <sup>39</sup> With him came Nicodemus, the man who had come to Jesus at night. He brought about seventy-five pounds of perfumed ointment made from myrrh and aloes. <sup>40</sup> Following Jewish burial custom, they wrapped Jesus' body with the spices in long sheets of linen cloth.

<sup>41</sup> The place of crucifixion was near a garden, where there was a new tomb, never used before. <sup>42</sup> And so, because it was the day of preparation for the Jewish Passover and since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

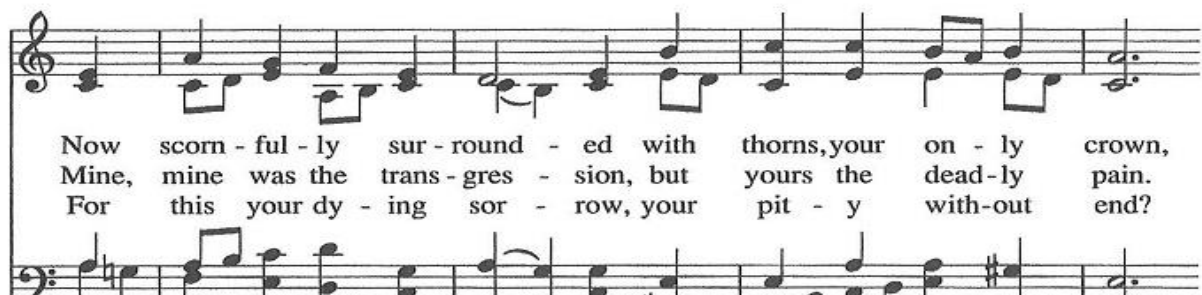
## Closing Hymn

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

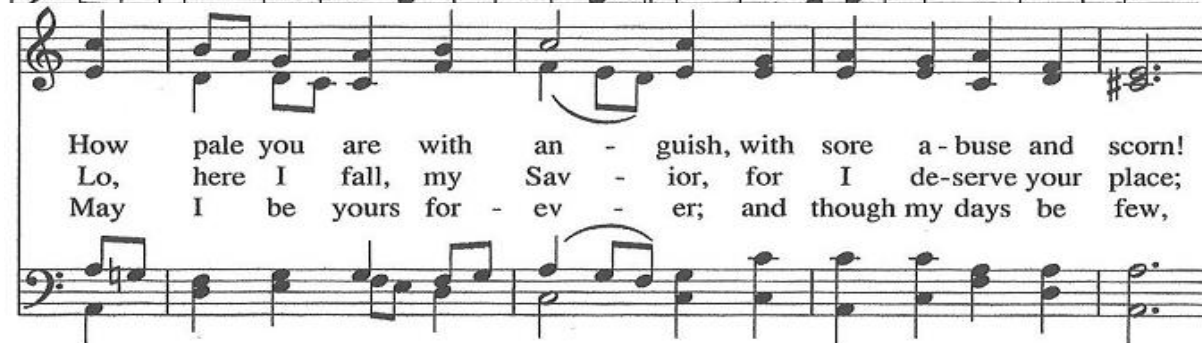
## PASSION CHORALE



1 O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,  
 2 What you, dear Sav - ior, suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain;  
 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank you, dear - est friend;



Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, your on - ly crown,  
 Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but yours the dead - ly pain.  
 For this your dy - ing sor - row, your pit - y with - out end?



How pale you are with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior, for I de - serve your place;  
 May I be yours for - ev - er; and though my days be few,



How does your vis - age lan - guish which once was bright as morn!  
 Look on me with your fa - vor, O grant to me your grace.  
 O Sav - ior, let me nev - er out - live my love for you!

## Closing Prayer

Rev. Dr. Mahsea Evans

## Benediction

Jesus, we wait here by your tomb, carrying our grief—the grief of the betrayer, the grief of the denier, the grief of the crucifiers. We carry the grief of the lost, the heartbroken, the bereft. Upon you was laid the grief of us all. It is finished. God of endings, God of darkness, God of the tomb, God of dark days and great loss, be with us now as we wait with Jesus. Go in peace. Amen.

*In the spirit of this holy day, please depart in silence.*



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*"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here!"*