

Good Friday

March 29, 2024 at 7:00 PM

*We welcome you to worship this evening. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.
As you join us this evening, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your hearts and minds toward God.*

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

In Jesus, God brings his own promised Son into death and through it. Just like God spares Isaac, God spares humanity because he takes the cross on himself. Andy Patton (L'Abri Fellowship)

Prelude

Amazing Grace

John Newton
The Aisquith Handbell Choir

Please quietly prepare your hearts for worship during the Prelude.

Welcome and Announcements

We praise our great God

Invocation

Call to Worship

Colossians 2:13-14

¹³ You, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

Hymn No. 691

It Is Well with My Soul

Ville Du Havre

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

It is well with my soul; it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul.

My sin—O the bliss of this glorious thought!—
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so”—it is well with my soul.

We embrace Christ’s Call

Confession of Faith

Westminster Larger Catechism, Question 49

How did Christ humble himself in his death?

Christ humbled himself in his death, in that having been betrayed by Judas, forsaken by his disciples, scorned and rejected by the world, condemned by Pilate, and tormented by his persecutors; having also conflicted with the terrors of death, and the powers of darkness, felt and born the weight of God’s wrath, he laid down his life an offering for sin, enduring the painful, shameful, and cursed death of the cross.

Our Confession of our Former Identity

Philippians 3:18-19

¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

Individual Confession of Sin

Our Confession of God’s Love and Calling in the Cross

1 John 4:9-11

⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Hymn

The Power of The Cross

Getty

O, to see the dawn of the darkest day;
Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten then
Nailed to a cross of wood.

**This the pow’r of the cross:
Christ became sin for us.
Took the blame, bore the wrath;
We stand forgiven at the cross.**

O to see the pain written on Your face,
Bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev’ry bitter thought, every evil deed
Crowning Your blood stained brow.

Refrain

Now the daylight flees; Now the ground beneath

Quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life –
“Finished!” the vict’ry cry.

Refrain

O, to see my name written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love!

This the pow’r of the cross:
Son of God – slain for us
What a love, what a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

We acknowledge God’s blessings

Pastoral Prayer of Rejoicing in Christ

Special Music

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

J.S. Bach
The Aisquith Handbell Choir

We hear God speak

Scripture Reading

Genesis 22:1-18

Pew Bible pg. 16

¹ After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ² He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. ⁷ And Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as

the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies,¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Sermon

“This is a Good Friday”

Pastor Ceselsky

Sermon Outline can be found on the back page of the bulletin.

We respond to God’s grace

Hymn No. 461

Not What My Hands Have Done

Leominster

Not what my hands have done can save my guilty soul;
Not what my toiling flesh has borne can make my spirit whole.
Not what I feel or do can give me peace with God;
Not all my prayers and sighs and tears can bear my awful load.

Thy work alone, O Christ, can ease this weight of sin;
Thy blood alone, O Lamb of God, can give me peace within.
Thy love to me, O God, not mine, O Lord, to thee,
Can rid me of this dark unrest, and set my spirit free.

Thy grace alone, O God, to me can pardon speak;
Thy pow’r alone, O Son of God, can this sore bondage break.
No other work, save thine, no other blood will do;
No strength, save that which is divine, can bear me safely through.

I bless the Christ of God; I rest on love divine;
And with unfalt’ring lip and heart, I call this Savior mine.
His cross dispels each doubt; I bury in his tomb
Each thought of unbelief and fear, each ling’ring shade of gloom.

I praise the God of grace; I trust his truth and might;
He calls me his, I call him mine, my God, my joy, my light.
‘Tis he who saveth me, and freely pardon gives;
I love because he loveth me, I live because he lives.

Benediction and Three-Fold Amen (**Hymnal, pg. 740**)

Danish

Postlude

Meditation on: The Old Rugged Cross

George Bernard

Dr. Kenneth Dean, Jr.; Director of Music Ministries

Please be seated and quietly reflect upon the Lord’s grace during the Postlude.

Announcements

We welcome Pastors David Milligan and Bryant Park and the members of Loch Raven Presbyterian Church who are joining us this evening.

Our Offering this evening is being donated to Mission to the World's Compassion Fund. These monies are used to share the love of Christ with those who have suffered due to various disasters. Plates for the offering are available in the narthex.

Sermon Notes

Date: March 29, 2024

Text: Genesis 22:1-18

Sermon Title: "This is a Good Friday"

Delivered By: Pastor John Ceselsky

Proposition: Our salvation requires the perfect sacrifice of Jesus.

Main Point 1: Isaac – the imperfect sacrifice.

Point 1: Abraham's beloved son.

Point 2: Without spot or blemish?

Main Point 2: Jesus – the perfect sacrifice.

Point 1: The Father's only-begotten, beloved Son.

Point 2: Without spot or blemish.

Main Point 3: The results of sacrifice.

Point 1: Covenant renewal.

Point 2: Covenant fulfillment.