



PRAYING THE STATIONS *of the Cross*

12 p.m. | April 5, 2026 | Good Friday
Dr. Mike Garrett, Senior Pastor



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Fayetteville, NC | Est. 1800

Service of Divine Worship

12 p.m. | April 2, 2026 | Good Friday

Enter Reverently. Meditate Quietly. Worship Devoutly.

Leave Gratefully. Serve Christ Faithfully.

Prelude

"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"
Dr. Marcia Mervin, organist

arr. Don Hustad

Welcome

Silence/Personal Reflection

Prayer

Leader: Merciful God, you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross.

All: Save us from hardness of heart, that seeing him who died for us, we may repent, confess our sin, and receive your love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn #223

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

HAMBURG

The First Station:

Jesus is condemned to death - Matthew 27:15-24

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, our Teacher on the Way, we are all condemned to death. Sometimes we bring death on ourselves; sometimes it is at the hands of others. Even though we try to avoid it, the Easter rhythm of death, burial, and resurrection teaches us that the only path to new life leads through the dark and narrow passageway of death.

Lord Jesus Christ, friend and brother, you faced your accusers with quiet dignity. You walked into your death with honesty and grace. Show me those places in my own life where I must die to self in order to be born to new life.

All: As we walk this way together, teach me how to meet my own deaths—large and small—with courage and grace.

SILENCE

Sung Response (Hymn #227)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The Second Station: Jesus Takes Up His Cross - John 19:17

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, our Teacher on the Way, sometimes your call upon our lives seems like more than we can bear. We are tempted to shrink from the challenges and hardships of our path. We wonder if we can make it all the way up the hill. Lord Jesus Christ, you carried your own cross with strength and perseverance and were undeterred by those who demeaned you along the way.

All: As we walk this way together, show me what is my cross to carry, my burden to bear, and teach me how to shoulder it well. Today is the day for me to learn more of what it means to take up my cross and follow you.

SILENCE

Sung Response (Hymn #227)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The Third Station: Jesus Meets His Mother - John 19:26, 27

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, our Teacher on the Way, your life on this earth was shaped by a mother who was utterly given over to the will of God in her life. Her prayer, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word," reverberates throughout history as a picture of what it means to be totally given over to the will of God. I wonder what it was like to look into her eyes that day and see the pain that such willingness brought upon her. Who could have imagined that it would all end so horribly? Was there any regret in her eyes?

Lord Jesus Christ, our brother and our friend, your mother's life teaches us that sometimes we must let go of that which we have birthed. We must allow it to be taken from us in order for it to be returned to us again. Some times it seems like this is the deepest pain of all.

All: As we walk this way together, teach me how to bear this pain when it is time.

SILENCE

Sung Response (Hymn #227)

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

The Fourth Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus Carry His Cross - Luke 23:26

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, our Teacher on the Way, sometimes we need help. We need companions on the way to help us shoulder our burdens when they get too heavy. And yet, we are embarrassed to ask for help or unable to receive it when it is given. As we walk this path together, forgive me for my proud self-sufficiencies and for all the ways in which they wall me off from you and from others. Save me from the exhaustion that sets in when I am unable to receive the help I need.

All: As we walk this way together, help me learn to recognize the help you send and to humbly receive it when it is given.

SILENCE

Sung Response (Hymn #227)

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

The Fifth Station: Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem - Luke 23:27-31

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, our Teacher on the Way, teach us how to grieve. We do not know how to grieve and what to grieve for. Like the women of Jerusalem, our grieving is full of melodrama, and it usually misses the point. True grief, the kind that comes from seeing and grasping our true situation, is so deep it can hardly be spoken. It can only be endured. Lord Jesus Christ, our brother and our friend, our journey with you must be one of true sorrow and true conversion.

All: As we walk this path together, lead me beyond the melodrama of public weeping and wailing into the godly grief that leads to true repentance. Let me know the comfort promised to those who truly mourn.

SILENCE

Sung Response (Hymn #227)

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

The Sixth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments - Matthew 27:31

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, our Teacher on the Way, this station is hard for me. Even now, I want to find some way to avert my eyes... pretend it didn't really happen... convince myself they did not strip you completely, that they left you with some shred of dignity. But somehow, I don't think they did. This business of being stripped of one's dignity is more than I can bear. As we walk this path together, I become aware of how much I protect myself to maintain my own dignity. I become aware of how I strip others of their dignity.

All: As we walk this path together, help me to look at you and see that even though they could strip you of your clothing, they could not strip you of your true identity. Help me to root my identity more completely in you so I know that ultimately I have nothing to lose.

SILENCE

Sung Response (Hymn #227)

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

The Seventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross - Matthew 27:33-37

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, our Teacher on the Way, the time has come, the moment to which your whole life has been leading. I look at you and see that you are not afraid. You are resolute and committed, and I am in awe of what I see. Is there any word that could come from my mouth, any sentence that could capture what is happening now? You die for me, you give your all for my sins, you become the Man of Sorrows so that I can have joy.

All: As we walk this path together, I learn that sometimes there are no words...

SILENCE

Sung Response (Hymn #227)

*Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.*

The Eighth Station: Jesus Dies Upon the Cross - Luke 23:44-49

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, our Teacher on the Way, how did you know when it was time to let go? How did you know when you had suffered enough and could finally and completely commend your spirit into God's hand? I confess that I don't always know when to let go. I cling and grasp for every last straw. I do not lay my life down willingly, and so it has to be wrenched from me and that always hurts more. As we walk this path together, teach me how to let go when it is time. Teach me to relinquish that very last breath of a thing I think is mine to claim in this life, so I can live in total abandonment to you. But even in this, help me not force what I cannot be or jump ahead of where I really am.

All: As we walk this path together, show me how to do what I do not yet know how to do.

Hymn #219

"They Crucified My Lord
(He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word)"

CRUCIFIXION

All: *They crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
They crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.*

Women: *They nailed him to a tree, and he never said a mumbalin' word
They nailed him to a tree, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.*

All: *They pierced him in the side, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
They pierced him in the side, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.*

Men: *The blood came trickalin' down, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
The blood came trickalin' down, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.*

All: *He bowed his head and died, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
He bowed his head and died, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
Not a word, not a word, not a word.*

SILENCE

The Ninth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross - Luke 23:50-55

Leader: We watch in silence as Jesus' body is taken down from the cross, wrapped in a linen cloth and prepared for burial. We allow ourselves to feel the depth of Christ's love for us and the depth of our loss. We bow or kneel in response to this sacred moment.

Reflection

"Ah, Holy Jesus"
Dr. Marcia Mervin, organ

arr. John Ferguson

SILENCE

The Tenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb - Matthew 27:57-61

Leader: We follow those who carry Jesus' body to the tomb and wait in silence as Jesus' body is laid there and the tomb is sealed.

Meditation

"Were You There?"
Erin Jackson, clarinet
Dr. Marcia Mervin, accompanist

arr. Ron Harris

LEAVE IN SILENCE

This service is adapted from "Praying The Stations of the Cross" by Ruth Haley Barton.

Giving & Tithes

Contributions help us continue our ministry and mission to serve Christ and share His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach. Scan the code to the right to make a financial contribution -or- visit www.firstprez.com/give





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102 Ann Street Fayetteville, N.C.

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Director of Youth Ministry &

Interim Director of Children's Ministry

Nichole Russ,

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Xavier Medina, Custodian

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Tim Lloyd, Section Leader

Joe Evans, Section Leader

Erin Jackson, Choral Scholar

Theodore Schwamm, Choral Scholar

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Jacob Regensburger

Martha Vorder Bruegge

Sunday Services

9 a.m. Early Service, Chapel | 11 a.m. Service, Sanctuary

Our mission at First Presbyterian Church is to *serve* Jesus Christ and *share* His gospel through meaningful worship, loving fellowship, spiritual growth, and compassionate outreach within our community and throughout the world.

#ServeandShare