

Sundays

Nursery Care 9:00 a.m.
Breakfast 9:00 a.m.
Christian Education 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship following service
Youth activities 4:00 p.m.

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Welcome to FPC.

Our prayer is that all will be blessed by the Word read and proclaimed as we are bound together by the Spirit as a community of faith.

Please remember to silence all electronic devices before worship begins. You are invited to use technology for worship resources, yet please be considerate of your neighboring worshipers and refrain from text and email.

✠ *Please rise, in body or spirit.*

Bold lines are spoken by **All**.
Non-bold lines are spoken or sung by one.

Holy Week Schedule

Saturday, 30 March

7:00 p.m. Easter Vigil
8:30 p.m. New Member Reception

Easter Sunday, 31 March

9:30 Easter Breakfast
10:00 Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 Easter Worship

Monday, 1 April

Church Office Closed



We seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ and his call to the realm of God: the practice of justice, mercy and faith. Our mission is represented by the Celtic cross, a shepherd's crook, the extension of the right arm of fellowship into the world and the church's hospitality toward the world.

28 March 2024
Maundy Thursday

Greeting and Words of Welcome

We gather in the darkness

Seeking the light of Christ in the shadows of the earth.

✠ **Gathering Hymn 678** *Our Darkness is Never Darkness*
**Our dark-ness is never dark-ness in your sight:
the deep-est night is clear as the day-light.**

✠ Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession

If I say, "Let the darkness cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O God.

The night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike.

God be with you.

And with you also.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you give us the sun to illumine the day and the moon and stars to shine by night. Kindle in us the flame of your love that our lives may shed abroad the radiance of your light and the world may be full of the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness. Amen.

Siblings in Christ, we are called to be children of the day and not children of the night. Let us approach the throne of grace that we may receive mercy.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

✠ **Response Hymn 228**

Were You There

Tenebrae, or the service of shadows

The scripture texts of this service move us from the fellowship of Maundy Thursday into the isolation of Good Friday, as we journey with Jesus through his final days and end with the flight of the disciples, Jesus' arrest, and death. This is symbolized through the extinguishing of candles and the dimming of lights. The cross is draped in black, recalling the days that Jesus was in the tomb. We leave this service in silence, entering into the great drama of the next three days.

Throughout this service, we will respond to the readings by singing the refrain to "Were You There" as we contemplate the last acts of Jesus's human life.

The Shadow of Betrayal

Mark 14:10-13, 16-21

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him.

So the disciples set out and went to the city, and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. When it was evening, he came with the twelve. And when they had taken their places and were eating, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." They began to be distressed and to say to him one after another, "Surely, not I?" He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the bowl with me. For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

Response 228

Were You There

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?)

The Shadow of The Agony of the Spirit and Arrest

Luke 22:39-54

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial." While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!" Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

Response 228

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?)

The Shadow of Denial**Luke 22:54-62**

Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house. But Peter was following at a distance. When they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them. Then a servant-girl, seeing him in the firelight, stared at him and said, "This man also was with him." But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." A little later someone else, on seeing him, said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not!" Then about an hour later still another kept insisting, "Surely this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about!" At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

Response 228

**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?)**

The Shadow of Mockery**Matthew 27:27-31**

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat on him, and took the reed and struck him on the head. After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Response 228

**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?)**

The Shadow of Crucifixion**Luke 23:32-43**

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Worship Leaders

PASTOR

Nathan Willard

MUSICIANS

**J. Kyle Coleman, the FPC
Sanctuary Choir**

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Choral Anthem

Crucifixus, from Mass in B Minor

J.S. Bach

The Shadow of Death

Mark 15:33-39, John 19:38-42

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

(Pause)

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. 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.

Depart to Serve God's World

Please depart in silence