

*“Today you will be with me
in Paradise”*

Words from the Cross

a lenten sermon series on the 7 last words of Christ



February 22, 2026, 10:30 am
1st Sunday in Lent

Welcome to worship! Led by the Holy Spirit, we glorify God, nurture the faith with each other, and witness the fullness of Christ's love in the world. Beyond the pews, we hope you will grow in faith with us on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. Our weekly announcements are e-mailed each Wednesday and posted online. Printed copies are available at the entrance.



Children are welcome in the Sanctuary throughout the service and are encouraged to borrow activity bags at the entrance with children's bulletins and other materials to engage in worship. Childcare is available for infants through 4-year-olds in the nursery, which is located on the 1st floor of the Education Building.

Assisted listening devices are available at the Princess Anne Street side entrance. Restrooms are located underneath the Sanctuary, accessed via the stairs off the porch on the Princess Anne Street side or elevator, or in the Education Building next to the offices or kitchen, both with elevator access. Our service is livestreamed via YouTube.

We are glad you are here as we give glory to God together!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

✠We rise in body or spirit.
We say words in bold together.

GATHERING

Prelude

Cantilene

Leo Delibes

Welcome and Announcements
Gathering Prayer

Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

God of wilderness and nighttime, as we devote these forty days to you, shape us by your Holy Spirit into the image of Christ our Lord, so that we may be ready, by your grace, to confront the power of death with the promise of eternal life. Amen.

Introit

My Life Flows On (Hymn 821)

Call to Worship *based on Joel 2:12-18*

Liturgist: Betsy Lewis

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to examine our souls.

We have not only met temptation; we have felt its grip.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to mend our ways.

We have not only committed sin; we have felt its sting.

The trumpet of the Lord sounds, calling us to rend our hearts.

We have not only witnessed forgiveness; we have felt its power.

Come, let us gather for worship, humbly entering Lent together.

We return to God, who is slow to anger and abounding in love.

✠Hymn 166

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you stay.*

*As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through this Passiontide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

☩Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You know all about our troubles and how easily and often we give in to the temptations of this world. We struggle to understand the new life Christ offers, preferring old habits to risky change. We justify our actions and words, though we know they are not what you require. We try to take the easy way out, rather than the way of your cross. Forgive us, we pray. Turn us from the evil powers in high places, that we may return to you and the path to which you have called us. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers . . . *silent prayers of confession* . . .

☩Sung Prayer (Hymn 227, sung twice)

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

☩Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

☩Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Luke 23:39-43*

p. 108 in the pew Bible

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

p. 2 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Natasha Taylor, Faith Formation Coordinator

Anthem.

Since By Man Came Death from Messiah

G.F. Handel

Scripture Reading: *Matthew 4:1-11*

p. 3 in the pew Bible

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Looking for the Oasis Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 819

Be Still, My Soul

*Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Leave to thy God to order and provide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heavenly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul: thy God doth undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord;
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

✠Affirmation of Faith from *The Scots Confession*

We confess and acknowledge that the law of God is most just, equal, holy, and perfect, commanding those things which, when perfectly done, can give life and bring man to eternal felicity; but our nature is so corrupt, weak, and imperfect, that we are never able perfectly to fulfill the works of the law . . . It is therefore essential for us to lay hold on Christ Jesus, in his righteousness and his atonement, since he is the end and consummation of the Law and since it is by him that we are set at liberty so the curse of God may not fall upon us, even though we do not fulfill the Law in all point. For as God the Father beholds us in the body of his Son Christ Jesus, he accepts our imperfect obedience as if it were perfect, and covers our works, which are defiled with many stains, with the righteousness of his Son.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

. . . forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors . . .

Presentation of Offerings

Gifts, tithes, and offerings may be placed in the plates at the Sanctuary entrance. We also give thanks to God for offerings given via mail and online at fredericksburgpc.org/give.

✠Song of Praise (Hymn 223, verse 4)

***Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.***

✠Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

✠Hymn 379

We Shall Overcome

during the first verse, children and youth are dismissed to the Ed Building for choir

We shall overcome; we shall overcome; we shall overcome someday.

REFRAIN: O, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome someday!

*We'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand; we'll walk hand in hand
someday. [Refrain]*

We shall live in peace; we shall live in peace; we shall live in peace someday. [Refrain]

We are not afraid; we are not afraid; we are not afraid today. [Refrain]

*God will see us through; God will see us through; God will see us through today.
[Refrain]*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude

In God, My Faithful God

J.S. Bach

Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Sherman Brown, Gary Vaughn

Elevator Assistant: Jerry Zekert

Sanctuary Guild: Connie Barnes, Joan Darby

Videographers: Ed Foresman, Trey Talmadge

My Life Flows On How Can I Keep From Singing?—Text and Music: Roberty Lowry, 1869; Public Domain
Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days – Text: Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873, alt.; Music: Day's *Psalter*, 1562; Public Domain
Jesus, Remember Me—Text and Music: Taize Community, ©1981; Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)
Be Still, My Soul—Text: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Laurie Borthwick, 1855, alt.; Music: Jean Sibelius, 1899;
arr. The Hymnal, 1933, alt.; arr. © 1933, ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: Lowell Mason, 1824; Public Domain
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