

*“Woman, here is your son.
... Here is your mother.”*

Words from the Cross

a lenten sermon series on the 7 last words of Christ



March 1, 2026, 10:30 am
2nd 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 *Softly and Tenderly* Tammy Waldrop, arr
The Jubilate Ringers & Brendan Shirk, English Horn

Welcome and Announcements Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

Gathering Prayer

**Journey with us, O God, as we continue our way to the cross.
Sharpen our focus, that our attention may center more on you than
on ourselves. Lead us through the shadows and prepare our hearts,
that we might be a people ready to listen to your Son and our Savior,
Jesus Christ, Amen.**

Introit *Let All Things Now Living* (Hymn 37)

Call to Worship *based on Psalm 121* Liturgist: Jesse Chewning

Lift your eyes to the hills! Where does our help come from?

Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

God will not let you stumble. 24/7, God cares for us.

God is our keeper, right by our sides protecting us.

From the heat of the noonday sun to the glow of moonlight, God is with us.

God guards us from every evil, watches over all our lives.

The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go, now and forever.

Thanks be to God!

☩Hymn 50 *Deep in the Shadows of the Past*

*Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands,
some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands.*

*The dawning hope of humankind by them was sensed and shown:
a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.*

*While others bowed to changeless gods, they met a mystery,
invisible, without a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
and by their tents, around their fires in story, song, and law,
they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.*

*From Exodus to Pentecost the promise changed and grew,
while some, remembering the past, recorded what they knew,
or with their letters and laments, their prophecy and praise,
recovered, kindled, and expressed new hope for changing days.*

*For all the writings that survived, for leaders, long ago,
who sifted, copied, and preserved the Bible that we know,
give thanks, and find its story yet our promise, strength, and call,
the model of emerging faith, alive with hope for all.*

✠Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you long to gather us in the wide embrace of your love. We confess that we have been wayward children. We have disobeyed your commands; our ears have been closed to your call; our hearts have been cold to your love. In thought, in word, and in deed we have hurt others and dishonored your name. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Receive us again as your beloved children, not because we are worthy but for the sake of the one who claimed us and gave himself for us . . .
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: *John 19:26-27*
Genesis 12:1-4

p. 139 in the pew Bible
p. 12 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

Offertory

John Ness Beck

*With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,
Shall I come before Him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgressions,
The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and love kindness,
And to walk humbly with your God?*

Scripture Reading: *John 3:1-17*

p. 114 in the pew Bible

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

Sermon

Are you my mother? Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠ Hymn 488

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

*"I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child with a faith to suit you well;
in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell"*

*"When you heard the wonder of the Word, I was there to cheer you on.
You were raised to praise the living Lord to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."*

*"In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."*

*I was there to hear your borning cry; I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."*

✠ Affirmation of Faith from *A Brief Statement of Faith (Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.)*

In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and

nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation . . . Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

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 463

How Firm a Foundation

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

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid:
I'll strengthen thee, help thee and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.*

*When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.*

*When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee, I only design
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.*

*The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude *Recessional* Gordon Young
Go in peace, holding quiet space for those who wish to reflect and pray.



*The flowers on the pulpit are given to the Glory of God
for the life of Harry B. Smart by his family.*

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Steve Davis, Paul Kukla

Elevator Assistant: Kaden Yealy

Sanctuary Guild: Karen Johnson

Videographers: Kristin Betsill

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Let All Things Now Living—Text: Katherine K. Davis, 1939, alt; © 1939, 1966 E. C. Schirmer Music Company;
Music: Welsh folk melody;

harm. Gerald H. Knight, 20th cent.; harm. © Royal School of Church Music

Deep in the Shadows of the Past—Text: Brian Wren, 1973; rev. 1994, © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing
Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

Music: Annabeth McClelland Gay, 1952; ©1958, ren. 1986, The Pilgrim Press

Jesus, Remember Me—Text and Music: Taize Community, ©1981; Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA
Publications, Inc.)

Offertory—Text: John Ness Beck; ©1987; Beckenhorst Press

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry—Text and Music: John C. Ylvisaker; ©1985

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