

*“My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?”*

Words from the Cross

a lenten sermon series on the 7 last words of Christ



March 8, 2026, 10:30 am
3rd 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 visit our Worship Corner in the front corner of the Sanctuary for a variety of resources to help 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.

Prelude

Berceuse op. 40, no. 2
Tina Christie, flute

Amy Beach

Welcome and Announcements Natasha Taylor, Faith Formation coordinator

Gathering Prayer

Loving God, as we gather here to worship, we are tired, weary, and seeking solace. Assure us of your presence through the Holy Spirit, so we may hear your word and pledge ourselves to serve you, today and every day. Amen.

Introit

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken (Hymn 81)

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Laura Chewning

My soul waits for God, like those watching for the morning.

God brings warmth and light into our world.

God's love is as steadfast as the sun, always rising,
despite our evening struggles.

God wakes us up each day with the gracious gift of new life.

✠Hymn 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me.

Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my eyes; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear.

And while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my ears; illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere.

Open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.

Open my heart; illumine me, Spirit divine!

✠Prayer of Confession

Trusting you does not always come easy, when each day we are faced with the ugliness of the world. We do not believe that love conquers fear. We are not convinced that power comes through weakness. We cannot conceive how you could heal us. Forgive our lack of faith, O God, and renew our trust in you. 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: *Matthew 27:45-49*
Psalms 130

p. 40 in the pew Bible
p. 705 in the pew Bible

Moment with the Children

Anthem

The Living Water of Life
Tina Christie, flute

David Lantz

*Are you thirsty for the Master, for the God of all creation?
Come through Jesus to the Father, through the life sustaining vine.
Drink deeply from the living water of life;
drink deeply from the endless water of life.
Like the waters of the Jordan, He will nourish and sustain us.
Come to Jesus through the Father, Drink the life of love divine.
Like the woman at the well, we are human and with sin.
Come to Jesus to the Father, feel His quenching deep within.
Drink deeply from the living water of life;
drink deeply from the endless water of life.
Come through Jesus to the Father. Taste the water of all life.*

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

Sermon

My God, My God

Natasha Taylor

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

✠Hymn 424

Out of the Depths

Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me calling.

Incline your ear to my distress in spite of my rebelling.

*Do not regard my sinful deeds. Send me the grace my spirit needs;
without it I am nothing*

All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with favor.

All our good works are done in vain without our Lord and Savior.

*We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from the grip of death;
our lives are in your keeping.*

In you alone, O God, we hope, and not in our own merit.

We rest our fears in your good word; uphold our fainting spirit.

*Your promised mercy is my fort, my comfort, and my strong support;
I wait for it with patience.*

*My soul is waiting for you, Lord, as one who longs for morning;
no watcher waits with greater hope than I for your returning.*

*I hope as Israel in the Lord, who sends redemption through the Word.
Praise God for grace and mercy*

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

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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

Moment for Mission

Karen Johnson

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 833

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

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

*O Love, that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths
its flow may richer, fuller be.*

*O Light, that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.*

*O Joy, that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.*

*O Cross, that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red life
that shall endless be.*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude

Les Plaisirs from Sonata in A Minor

G.P. Telemann

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



*The flowers on the pulpit are given by Ladies' Thursday Morning Bible Study
in recognition of PC(USA)'s Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday.*

Serving in Worship Today:

Choirmasters: Mary Ann & Larry Casey

Organist: Amy Shirk

Ushers: Mike Gibson, Tom Theado

Elevator Assistant: Bill Stewart

Sanctuary Guild: Karen Johnson

Videographers: Vicky Wilder, Ed Foresman

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