

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 10, 2020  
St. Stephen Presbyterian Church  
Fort Worth, Texas

**Peal of the Tower Bells**

**Prelude:** *Elegy*

G. Thalben Ball

**Prayer of the Day**

**Leader:** Let us Pray.

**All:** Merciful God, you gave your Son to suffer the shame of the cross. Save us from hardness of heart, that, seeing Him who died for us, we may repent, confess our sins, and receive your overflowing love, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Hymn:** #218 *Ah, Holy Jesus*

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

**Prayer of Illumination**

Mary Jane Harbison

**Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God

**New Testament Lesson: Hebrews 10:16-25**

**Leader:** This is the Lord of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

**Hymn:** #220 *Go to Dark Gethsemane*  
Verses 1-3

REDHEAD 76

**Gospel Lesson: John 18:1-19:42**

**Leader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, O Christ.

Rev. Dr. Fritz Ritsch, *Pastor*,  
Bruce Campbell and Mary Jane Harbison

**Solemn Intercession**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Hymn: #216** *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

ST. CHRISTOPHER

**Procession of the Cross**

**Leader:** Behold the cross on which was hung the salvation of the whole world.

**All:** Come, let us worship.

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**SOLEMN REPROACHES OF THE CROSS**

**Leader:** O my people, O my church, what have I done to you, or in what way have I offended you? Answer me. I led you forth from the land of Egypt and delivered you to the water of baptism, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** I led you through the desert forty years, and fed you with manna: I brought you through tribulation and penitence, and gave you my body, the bread of heaven, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** What more could I have done for you that I have not done? I planted you, my chosen and fairest vineyard I made you the branches of my vine; but when I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** My peace I gave, which the world cannot give, and washed your feet as a sign of my love, but you draw the sword to strike in my name and seek high places in my kingdom. I offered you my body and my blood, but you scatter and deny and abandon me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**All:** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

**Leader:** I sent the Spirit of truth to guide you, and you close your hearts to the Counselor. I pray that all may be one in the Father and in me, but you continue to quarrel and divide. I call you to go and bring forth fruit, but you cast lots for my clothing, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**All:** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

**Leader:** I came to you as the least of your brother and sisters; I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and imprisoned and you did not visit me, and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

**All:** Holy God, holy and might, holy immortal One, have mercy upon us.

**Hymn:** #221 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

PASSION CHORALE

**Tolling of the Bourdon Bell**

*Please observe one minute of silence.*



Rev. Dr. Fritz Ritsch, *Pastor*  
Rev. Dr. Warner Bailey, *Parish Associate*  
Jordan Smith, *Organist and Director of Music*  
Chuck Shanlever, *Videographer*

Ah, Holy Jesus

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed,  
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee?  
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered;  
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion,  
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee,

that we to judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de -  
 A - las, my trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord  
 the slave hath sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a -  
 thy mor - tal sor - row, and thy life's o - bla - tion, thy death of  
 I do a - dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee, think on thy

rid - ed, by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!  
 Je - sus, I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 tone - ment, while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
 an - guish and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 pit - y and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

This beautiful English paraphrase of a German meditation on Christ's Passion bears testimony to the unobtrusive poetic skill and musical sensitivity of a future Poet Laureate of England. The associated chorale is no less carefully crafted and rewards singing in parts.

# 220 Go to Dark Gethsemane

1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the  
 2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall; view the Lord of  
 3 Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing  
 4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his

tempt - er's power; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see;  
 life ar - rained; O the worm - wood and the gall!  
 at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,  
 breath - less clay: all is sol - i - tude and gloom.

watch with him one bit - ter hour; turn not from his  
 O the pangs his soul sus - tained! Shun not suf - fering,  
 God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete; "It is fin - ished!"  
 Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is risen! He

griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.  
 shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.  
 hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.  
 meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

The composer intended this tune for "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" (no. 438), but its solemn tone and small range make it an effective setting for this series of somber vignettes portraying what Christians can learn from Christ: to pray, to bear the cross, to die, and to rise.

# 216 Beneath the Cross of Jesus

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I fain would take my stand,  
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus mine eye at times can see  
 3 I take, O cross, thy shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;  
 the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;  
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
 and from my strick - en heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess:  
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.  
 the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
 my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

For sheer intensity of feeling few hymns can match this meditation on the cross; impressive images and strong contrasts combine to give the text its ardor. The passionate language is augmented by the highly chromatic tune later composed for these words.

# O Sacred Head, Now Wounded 221

1 O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down;  
 2 What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for sin - ners' gain:  
 3 What lan-guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear-est friend,

now scorn-ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;  
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead-ly pain.  
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with-out end?

O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!  
 Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior! 'Tis I de - serve thy place;  
 O make me thine for - ev - er; and should I faint-ing be,

Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.  
 look on me with thy fa - vor, and grant to me thy grace.  
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

This poignant hymn originated in a series of Holy Week meditations focused on the parts of Christ's crucified body: feet, knees, hands, side, breast, heart, face. First joined to secular words, this chorale melody has appeared with this text since the mid-17th century.