



CITY REFORMED CHURCH
GOOD FRIDAY
2020

A LITURGY OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT

Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus the prophet Isaiah prophesied of a Suffering Servant that would one day deliver the people of Israel from their bondage and exile to sin, the curse and death. The Suffering Servant Song of Isaiah 53 gives us a remarkable portrait of the Jesus' saving work as a work of substitution:

*Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
But he was pierced for our transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*

Theologian John Stott has rightly observed that: "Substitution lies at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices himself for man and puts himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives that belong to God alone; God accepts penalties that belong to man alone."

During this Good Friday service, we will let the Suffering Servant Song of Isaiah 53 guide our reflection on the passion of Jesus. As you worship we encourage you to reflect and repent of the many ways you have substituted yourself for God; at the same time we invite you to marvel at the mystery and beauty that Jesus substitutes himself savingly into our life precisely at those places of self-ruin and disobedience where we most deserve to be condemned and left alone.

Come Let Us Worship!

THE SUFFERING SERVANT SONG (Isaiah 53)

Who has believed what he has heard
from us? And to whom has the arm of
the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a
young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we
should look at him, and no beauty that
we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by
men, a man of sorrows and
acquainted with grief; and as one
from whom men hide their faces

he was despised, and we esteemed
him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our
transgressions;
he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that
brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his
own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was
afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its
shearers is silent,

so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was

taken away;

and as for his generation, who
considered
that he was cut off out of the land of
the living,

stricken for the transgression of my
people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the
wicked

and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to
crush him; he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes an offering for
guilt,

he shall see his offspring; he shall
prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in
his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he
shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous
one, my servant,

make many to be accounted
righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a
portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with
the strong,

because he poured out his soul to
death and was numbered with the
transgressors; yet he bore the sin of
many,

and makes intercession for the
transgressors.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICEApril 10th 2020

Holy Week

PRELUDE**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Minister: Blessed be the name of the Lord our God

People: *who redeems us from sin and death.*

Minister: For us and our salvation, Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.

People: *Blessed be the name of the Lord*

Prayer of Reflection

Minister: Savior of the world, what have you done to deserve this?
And what have we done to deserve you? Strung up between criminals, cursed and spat upon, you wait for death, and look for us, for us whose sin has crucified you. To the mystery of undeserved suffering you bring the deeper mystery of unmerited love. Forgive us for not knowing what we have done; open our eyes to see what you are doing now, as through wood and nails, you disempower our depravity and transform us by your grace.

People: *Amen*

Silent Prayer

A SERVANT DESPISED AND REJECTED

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: *In the humility of human flesh you came to save the world.*

Isaiah 53:1-3

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." ⁵ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And he marveled because of their unbelief.

Man of Sorrows - What a Name

Words and Music:
Philip Paul Bliss



1. Man of sor - rows what a name
2. Bear - ing shame and scof - fing rude,
3. Guilt - y, help - less, lost were we;
4. He was lift - ed up to die;
5. When he comes, our glo - rious King,



for the Son of God, who came
in my place con - demned he stood,
blame - less Lamb of God was he,
"It is fi - nished" was his cry;
all his ran - somed home to bring,



ru - ined sin - ners to re - claim:
sealed my par - don with his blood:
sac - ri - ficed to set us free:
now in heaven ex - alt - ed high:
then a - new this song we'll sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah, what a Sav - ior!

A SORROWFUL SERVANT

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: *Because you entered into the misery and sorrow of sinful humanity.*

Isaiah 53:4

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

Matthew 26:36-46

Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." ³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." ³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Words: James Montgomery, 1825

Music: Richard Redhead, 1853

1 Go to dark Geth-se-m-a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's power;
 2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned.
 3 Cal-vary's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,

your Re - deem - er's con - flict see, watch with him one bit - ter hour:
 Oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus - tained!
 mark the mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete:

turn not from his griefs a - way— teach us, Lord, how we should pray.
 Shun not suf - fering, shame, or loss— help us, Lord, to bear our cross.
 "It is fin - ished!" hear him cry— save us, Lord, when death draws nigh.

THE SOLEMN PRAYERS

Isaiah tells us that Jesus “*bore the sins of many and makes intercession for the transgressors.*” As Jesus poured out his heart in prayer to God in the garden of Gethsemane it is right for us to come before the Lord with solemn prayers. God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through him. So let us bring the needs of the whole world to the foot of the cross of Christ.

I ask you to pray for the Church of God throughout the world, that God the almighty, eternal One will guide it, and gather it in unity and peace. (*pause for silent prayer*)

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Holy God, by your Spirit you teach your Church and make us holy: help each of us to do your work more faithfully. I ask you to pray for all who confess Christ crucified, that God will heal our divisions. (*pause for silent prayer*)

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

I ask you to pray for all who do not look to Christ as Savior, and all who do not believe in God. (*pause for silent prayer*)

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Holy God, you desire justice for all the earth: guide our leaders and guard all peoples in the way of righteousness, freedom and peace. I ask you to pray for the sick, the dying and all in need; for the homeless, the hungry and the oppressed; for those in darkness and despair. (*pause for silent prayer*)

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer: Holy God, all tenderness and healing flow from you: give strength to the weary and courage to the downhearted, and show mercy to all who are in trouble. Most merciful God, we commit ourselves to you and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have died and are alive in Christ, we may come to the fullness of eternal life, and the joy of the resurrection in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A SERVANT JUDGED

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: *Because you the judge of all creation became the one judged in our place*

Isaiah 53:7-9

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

Matthew 26:59-68

Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707
Music: Hugh Wilson, 1800



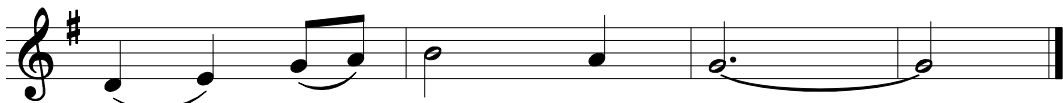
1. A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed, and
2. Was it for sins that I have done he
3. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and
4. Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while



did groaned my Sov - ereign die? Would
shut u - pon the tree? A -
his dear cross - ies in when
dis -



he de - vote that sa - cred head for
maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, and
Christ, the might - y Mak - er, died for
solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and



sin - ners such as I?
love be - yond de - gree!
his own crea - tures' sin.
melt mine eyes to tears.

A SERVANT PIERCED

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: ***Because by your wounds we are healed.***

Isaiah 53:5-6

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—everyone—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Matthew 27:27-44

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

³²As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴²"He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

Words: Henry Lyte, 1824

Music: Bill Moore



1. Je - sus, I my cross have ta - ken, All to leave and fol - low Thee.
 2. Let the world de-spise and leave me, They have left my Sa - vior, too.
 3. Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure, Come dis - as - ter, scorn and pain.
 4. Soul, then know thy full sal - va - tion Rise o'er sin and fear and care



Des - ti - tute, de - spised, for - sak - en, Thou from hence my all shall be.
 Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; Thou art not, like them, un - true.
 In Thy ser - vice, pain is plea - sure, With Thy fa - vor, loss is gain
 Joy to find in ev 'ry sta - tion, Some - thing still to do or bear.



Pe - rish ev - ery fond am - bi - tion, All I've sought or hoped or known.
 O while Thou dost smile up - on me, God of wis - dom, love, and might,
 I have called Thee Ab - ba Fa - ther, I have stayed my heart on Thee.
 Think what Spi - rit dwells with - in thee, Think what Fa - ther's smiles are thine,



Yet how rich is my con - di - tion!
 Foes may hate and friends dis - own me,
 Storms may howl, and clouds may ga - ther;
 Think that Je - sus died to win thee,



God and heaven are still my own.
 Show Thy face and all is bright.
 All must work for good to me.
 Child of heav'n, canst thou re - pine.

A SERVANT GIVES HIS LIFE

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: *Because you gave your life as a ransom for sinners*

Isaiah 53:9-10

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days.

Matthew 27:45-51;57-61

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "*Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?*" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.

HOMILY

CONFESSION OF SIN

God shows great love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
Let us confess our sins:

*O Christ, we are stripped bare by your suffering.
You see our dreams, our demons,
and the secrets we keep even from ourselves.
Forgive all that needs to be forgiven,
put to death the indwelling sin that still grips us
heal all that needs to be healed,
awaken the good that sleeps in us,
banish all the fears that paralyze us.
Put the power of your cross into our lives forever,
and clothe us with hope and love.*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We have turned our hearts to God in repentance and our sins are laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ. *“Jesus bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live to righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”* (1 Peter 2:24) In the name of the living God, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

THE SERVANT'S OFFSPRING

Leader: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

People: ***Because by your shed blood you have redeemed the world.***

Isaiah 53:10-12

He shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Hebrews 9:26-28

Jesus has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

What Wondrous Love

Words: Anonymous, 1811
Music: Southern Harmony, 1835



What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,



What won - drous love is this, O my soul!
when I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down;
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;



What won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
when I was sink - ing down be - neath God's right - eous frown,
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy - ful be,



to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul, for my soul,
while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
and through e - ter - ni - ty, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,



to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?
Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Observe a moment of silent reflection

DOXOLOGY AND BLESSING

Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

May God, who gives you a new vision of life through the cross, enlighten your understanding, inflame your affections, and enable you to walk in the way of the cross. And may the love of God—Father, Son and the Holy Spirit—surround you and uphold you in all your life.

Musicians

Sarah Reimer, piano

Jon Reimer, cello