



First Parish Church, Congregational
On the Village Green
Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

Awaken to the Light and Love of God; Be a Joyful Beacon to Our World

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt, Interim Pastor
Donald R. Dunn, Director of Music-Organist
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GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE

April 19, 2019 - 12 Noon

ORGAN PRELUDE: *“Mercy” (La Grace)*
Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt

CALL TO WORSHIP: (based on the UCC Statement of Faith)

Leader: We have gathered in the presence of God, our creator, who sets before us the ways of life and death.

People: We have gathered in the presence of Jesus the Christ, who calls us to accept the cost of discipleship that we may know its joy.

Leader: We have gathered in the presence of the Spirit, who sustains us in trial and rejoicing.

All: In our living and in our dying, we belong to God. In the shadow of God’s wings, we sing for joy. Let us worship God.

***HYMN:** *“What Wondrous Love Is This?”*
New Century Hymnal (black cover) #223

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (from *Touch Holiness*)

The Reverend Luther Zeigler

Gracious God, on this day we gather to remember with love and tears the suffering and death of Jesus of Nazareth. We believe that this despised and rejected man of sorrows has borne our griefs and has been wounded for our transgressions. We come to this worship in deep repentance for our individual sins and in recommitment of our lives to end suffering, pain, and death in all times and all places. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Psalm 22:1-11

Pastor Ryan Ackerman

Plea for Deliverance from Suffering and Hostility

A Psalm of David.

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

³ Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴ In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵ To you they cried, and were saved;
in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

⁶ But I am a worm, and not human;
scorned by others, and despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me mock at me;
they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

⁸ “Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

⁹ Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

¹⁰ On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

¹¹ Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9

Father Paul Flammia

^{4:14} Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession.

^{4:15} For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin.

^{4:16} Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

^{5:7} In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

^{5:8} Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered;

^{5:9} and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

ANTHEM: *“God so loved the world” Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)*

Melissa Glaister, soprano

God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life. John 3:16

MEDITATION FROM THE LAST SEVEN WORDS OF JESUS

This year members of First Parish Church will be reading excerpts of reflections from a variety of faithful Christians who comment on the meaning of these words in their daily lives. If you would like to read the reflections in their entirety, you can find them on this website:

<https://aleteia.org/2017/04/14/with-his-7-last-words-jesus-speaks-to-us-all/>

READING #1: “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34

REFLECTION written by Elizabeth Scalia, musician, song-writer,
author **Jason Smith, Reader**

READING #2: “Truly I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” Luke 23:43

REFLECTION written by Dr. Christi Bartlett, a palliative care
physician **Allison Moir-Smith, Reader**

READING #3: “Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother.” John 19:26-27

REFLECTION written by Peter Lajoie, a student in Rome
Paul Lengeiza, Reader

HYMN: “*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*”

Pilgrim Hymnal (blue cover) #170

READING #4: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34

REFLECTION written by Leticia Ochoa Adams (a mom facing
tragic loss) **Sue Parker, Reader**

READING #5: “I thirst” John 19:28

REFLECTION written by Tom Moore, a police officer
Richard Smith, Reader

ANTHEM: *“Drop, Drop, Slow Tears”*
Text: Phineas Fletcher (1580-1650)
Music: Philip W. J. Stopford (b. 1977)

Drop, drop, slow tears,	In your deep floods
And bathe those beauteous feet	Drown all my faults and fears;
Which brought from Heaven	Nor let His eye
The news and Prince of Peace:	See sin, but through my tears.
Cease not, wet eyes,	
To cry for vengeance	
Sin doth never cease.	
His mercy to entreat;	

READING #6: “It is finished.”

REFLECTION written by Kate Newton, a nurse

Bethany Woods, Reader

READING #7: “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.”

Luke 23:46

REFLECTION written by Keelan Scharbach, a student studying
abroad

Vin Terrill, Reader

PRAYER

The Reverend Luther Zeigler

HYMN: *“The Old Rugged Cross”*

#195 New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *“Prelude in E minor” (Cathedral)*

Worship Leaders this afternoon:

Pastor Ryan Ackerman, Cornerstone Church (Baptist)

The Reverend Luther Zeigler, Minister of Emmanuel Church
(Episcopal)

Rev. Dr. Marlayna Schmidt, Interim Pastor, First Parish Church,
Congregational (UCC)

Father Paul Flammia, Sacred Heart Church (Catholic)

Don Dunn, Organist/Director of Music, First Parish Church Choir,
First Parish Church

Paul Lengeiza, Allison Moir-Smith, Sue Parker, Jason Smith, Richard
Smith, Vin Terrill, Bethany Woods, Lay Readers, First Parish Church

Thank you for joining us for worship this Good Friday.

Easter Worship Service Times on Sunday, April 21st:

Ecumenical Sunrise Service – Singing Beach	5:50 a.m.
Cornerstone Church (Baptist) – 20 School St.	10:45 a.m.
Emmanuel Church (Episcopal) – 24 Masconomo St.	10:00 a.m.
First Parish Church, Congregational (UCC) – 10 Central St.	10:00 a.m.
Sacred Heart Church (Catholic) – 62 School St.	8:30 a.m.