

Bower Hill Community Church
Good Friday ~ April 3, 2026 ~ 7:00pm
Order of Worship

SERVICE INFORMATION

The service tonight is known as the "Service of the Nails." It is a series of readings, responses, silent reflection and prayer designed to help us enter more deeply into the meaning of Good Friday. Everyone should have received a nail when they entered the sanctuary. You are invited to hold it during the service and use it as a tool to enter more deeply into meditating on the events of that first Good Friday long ago. Let us now prepare in silence to worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 52:13-15

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him- so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals- so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

*HYMN 212

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Please stand

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

C: O merciful God, you did not spare your Child Jesus, but allowed him to suffer in all the ways that we suffer, bearing our pain upon the cross. Just as he takes part in our sufferings, help us to recognize the ways that we take part in his suffering, and in the suffering of this world. Out of all pain and suffering, let there be transformation. Amen.

THE NAILS OF THE CROSS

FIRST NAIL: THE NAIL OF BETRAYAL: John 18:1-11

Extinguishing the first light, meditation, and prayer.

Time of Silence

L: O God- help us consider how we betray others, how we abandon them in their time of need, how we think of ourselves first.

C: O God- do not let us deceive ourselves. Our acts of betrayal hurt us and create walls between us and others.

L: O God, we know that our betrayal hurts you, too.

RESPONSE: Hymn 210 (Psalm 22)

Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me

verse 1

Remain seated

SECOND NAIL: THE NAIL OF DENIAL: John 18:12-18, 25-27

Extinguishing the second light, meditation, and prayer.

Time of silence

L: O God – help us consider how we deny you, of the times when we are ashamed

or hesitant to proclaim your Gospel.

**C: O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our denial hurts us
and creates walls between others and you.**

L: O God, we know our denial hurts you, too.

RESPONSE: Hymn 210 (Psalm 22) *Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me* verse 2
Remain seated

THIRD NAIL: THE NAIL OF PRIDE: John 18:19-24
Extinguishing the third light, meditation, and prayer.
Time of silence

L: O God- help us consider our own pride and where it leads.

**C: O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our pride hurts us
and creates walls between us and others.**

L: O God, we know our pride hurts you, too.

RESPONSE: Hymn 210 (Psalm 22) *Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me* verse 3
Remain seated

FOURTH NAIL: THE NAIL OF POWER: John 18:28-19:16
Extinguishing the fourth light, meditation, and prayer.
Time of silence

L: O God – help us consider our love of power, how we trust more in power than in you,
how we use power for our own gain.

**C: O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our love of power hurts us
and creates walls between us and others.**

L: O God, we know that our love of power hurts you , too.

Hymn 210 (Psalm 22) *Lord, Why Have You Forsaken Me* verse 4
Remain seated

FIFTH NAIL: THE NAIL OF CRUELTY: John 19:17-30
Extinguishing the fifth light, meditation, and prayer.
Time of silence

L: O God – help us consider how we are cruel to others, how we malign and slander others
and add to the evil that comes upon them.

**C: O God – do not let us deceive ourselves. Our cruelty hurts us
and creates walls between us and others.**

L: O God, we know that our cruelty hurts you too.

Choral Anthem *Wayfaring Stranger*

SIXTH NAIL: THE NAIL OF DESPAIR: John 19:31-42
Extinguishing the sixth light, meditation, and prayer.
Time of silence

L: O God- help us consider how we give in to despair, how we give in when you call us to trust in you.

**C: O God- do not let us deceive ourselves. Our despair hurts us
and creates walls between us and others.**

L: O God, we know that our despair hurts you, too.

ACT OF CONFESSION: Isaiah 53: 4-6

L: Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows,
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted.

C: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.

L: Upon him was the punishment that made us whole and by his bruises we are healed.

C: We have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

REFLECTION

"The Myth of Redemptive Violence"

Rev. Dr. Brian Snyder

*HYMN 216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Please stand

Solo

Were You There

Britney Limtham-Yauger, soprano

As "Were You There" is sung, you are invited to exit in silence by way of the center aisle, dropping your nail in the bowl on your way out.

Adapted from the service "The Nails of the Cross"

By Rev. Richard J. Fairchild & Charlene E. Fairchild, 1993-2006

Worship Note:

As we leave Christ in the tomb, we invite you to sit in silence for as long as you need. This is a time of prayer and reflection as we recall the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. If there is anything you wish to let go, any fear, any care, any fault, any failing, any brokenness or sin that you wish to bury with Christ, place those broken parts of your life in the tomb of Christ. On Easter morning, when we proclaim the tomb to be empty and Christ raised from the dead, those things that kept you from relationship with God and others may be proclaimed gone and forgiven as well. Our prayer for you this Holy Week is that Easter morning be a dawning of a new chapter in your life. The church will be open tomorrow from 11:30am to 3:00pm for private prayers. Please enter and leave by way of the handicap entrance in the kitchen parking lot.