

GOOD FRIDAY

First Baptist Church
April 7, 2023

Organ Prelude *Meditation on the Passion of Jesus* by Gayden Sikes

Opening Sentences – from Hebrews 10 Paul Sims

Hymn *Before the Cross of Jesus* ST. CHRISTOPHER

*Before the cross of Jesus our lives are judged today;
The meaning of our eager strife is tested by his Way.
Across our restless living the light streams from his cross,
And by its clear, revealing beams we measure gain and loss.
The hopes that lead us onward, the fears that hold us back,
Our will to do great things for God, the courage that we lack,
The faith we keep in goodness, our love, as low or pure,
On all, the judgment of the cross falls steady, clear, and sure.
Yet humbly, in our striving, O God, we face its test;
We crave the pow'r to do Your will with him who did it best;
On us now let the healing of his great Spirit fall,
And make us brave and full of joy to answer to his call.*

- Ferdinand Q. Blanchard, 1929

Prayer of Confession Alex Lockridge

*At the foot of the cross, O God,
we behold the mystery of Your suffering.
How great is Your love for us, and how inadequate is our response.
We hold back, look away, close our eyes.
We say too much,
except when we do not say anything.
We duck responsibility, squander our talents, and deny Your truth.
Still Jesus reaches out to us.
Even from the cross, he reaches out to us.
Help us to receive what we do not deserve, so that we may live a new life,
following the One who died for us, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture – Isaiah 53:1-6

Paul Sims

Psalm 22

PASSION CHORALE

My God, am I for-sak-en? Why turn from me Your eyes? Why cease to know my
With scorn my foes de-ride me, their taunts my faith would move; Yet firm in my con-
an-guish, or hear my heart-felt cries? The faith-ful ones be-fore me found fa-vor by their
vic-tion, deep-root-ed in Your love. My God, my sure sal-va-tion, be near me all my
trust; While I, des-pised, tor-ment-ed, am cast in-to the dust.
days; What-ev-er may be-fall me, re-main my strength al-ways.

- Michael Morgan, 1999

The Passion Narrative – from John 19

Jeremiah Banks and Alex Lockridge

Homily

“Till the Last Breath”

Alex Lockridge

Hymn

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed?

AVON

*Alas! and did my Savior bleed, and did my sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?
Was it for crimes that I have done, he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown, and love beyond degree!
Thus might I hide my blushing face while his dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears.
But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.*

- Isaac Watts, 1707

Benediction

Alex Lockridge and Paul Sims

Organ Postlude

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded setting by Michael Burkhardt

Ushers will be at exits to receive an offering that will benefit a ministry of the Southeastern Kentucky Ministerial Alliance that provides charitable aid to stranded travelers.