

Lafayette
Avenue
Presbyterian
Church

Good Friday
April 18, 2025 • 12 noon



Posca by Carmelle Beaugelin

Jesus did not come to die. Jesus came for life, to show humans a perfect vision of ministerial relation...The image of Jesus on the cross is the image of human sin in its most desecrated form. — Delores Williams

Welcome to Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church!

Whether this is your first time in worship or your 1,001st time, you are welcome here. We invite you to find peace in this historic place, where we have long worked to see God's Kingdom come.

If you are new to this community, a great first step is to sign up for our weekly newsletter and say hello via the QR code on the inside back cover or by dropping us a line at info@lapcbrooklyn.org.

Finally, we want to remind anyone who enters our doors that you are not alone. We are here for you. If you would like to be connected with our team of Deacons, who oversee the care of this community, please email deacons@lapcbrooklyn.org. You may also share any prayer requests with prayers@lapcbrooklyn.org.

Together, let's build and celebrate an inclusive world where all are welcome and valued!

— Rev. Emily Brewer and the LAPC Family



Order of Worship

Gathering in God's Name

*Call to Worship

Carla Cook

Let us remember

how the sky went dark.

Let us remember

how his mother was there.

Let us remember

how people mocked him.

Let us remember

how his friends fled.

Let us remember

how in the midst of all that, Jesus still chose love.

Let us worship God.

*Anthem

THE LAFAYETTE CHOIR

Ah, Holy Jesus

Johann Crüger (1598-1662)

Ah, Holy Jesus, how have you offended,
That mortal judgment has on you descended?
By foes derided, by your own rejected,
O most afflicted!
Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon you?
It is my treason, Lord, that has undone you;
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied you;
I crucified you.

For me, dear Jesus, was your incarnation,
Your mortal sorrow, and your life's oblation,
Your death of anguish and your bitter passion,
For my salvation.

Therefore, dear Jesus, since I cannot pay you.
I do adore you, and will ever praise you,
Think on your pity and your love unswerving.
Not my deserving.

Johann Heerman; trans. Robert Bridges

Proclaiming God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Michelle Clarke

Wisdom Lesson

Psalm 22:1-11

Spiritual

He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word

They crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
Not a word.

They nailed him to a tree...
They pierced him in the side...
The blood came trickalin' down...
He bowed his head and died...

Gospel Lesson

John 19:1-22

Andrew Wright

Spiritual

Calvary

Calvary, Calvary ... Surely he died on Calvary.
Every time I think about Jesus, Surely he died on Calvary.
Don't you hear the hammer ringing?...
Don't you hear him calling his Father?...
Don't you hear him say, "It is finished"?...

Gospel Lesson Continues

John 19:23-30

Jane Adams

Meditation

A Cup of Sorrow

Rev. Emily Brewer

Responding to God's Word

Anthem

When Jesus Wept

William Billings (1746-1800)

When Jesus wept, the falling tear
In mercy flowed beyond all bound;
When Jesus groaned, a trembling fear
Seized all the guilty world around.

Eternal God, by your Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified. Receive our prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy church, that in our vocation and ministry we may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them: for the President of the United States, and the Congress and Supreme Court, for the members and representatives of the United Nations, We pray especially for those among them who serve the common good and that all the rest might follow their example, that by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and all may live in peace and abundance.

Silence.

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, that justice and peace may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We remember all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind or in spirit: for the hungry and homeless, the destitute and the oppressed, and all who suffer persecution, doubt, and despair, for the sorrowful and bereaved, prisoners and captives and those in mortal danger, that God will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of God's love, and stir up in us the will and knowledge to serve all of your children.

Silence.

Eternal God of unchanging Power and light, look with mercy on your whole church. Bring to completion your saving work, so that the whole world may see the fallen lifted up, the old made new, and all things brought to wholeness by him through whom all things were made, our Lord Jesus Christ, who teaches us to pray always...

The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

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.

Spiritual

Were You There?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble.
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
Were you there when they pierced Him in the side?
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Solemn Reproaches of the Cross

Walis Johnson

O my people, O my church,
What have I done to you,
in what have I offended you?
Answer me.

I led you forth from the land of Egypt
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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
pierced with a spear the side of your Savior,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
and you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate.

I scourged your enemies and brought you
to a land of freedom,
but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me.
I gave you the water of salvation from the rock,
but you have given me gall and left me to thirst,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I gave you a royal scepter,
and bestowed the keys to the kingdom,
but you have given me a crown of thorns.
I raised you on high with great power,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

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 blood,
but you scatter and deny and abandon me,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

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 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.

Lord have mercy.

I grafted you into the tree of my chosen Israel,
and you turned on them with persecution and mass murder.
I made you joint heirs with them of my covenants
but you made them scapegoats for your own guilt,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Lord, have mercy.

I came to you as the least of your siblings;
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 in prison and you did not visit me,
and you have prepared a cross for your Savior.
Lord, have mercy.

Prayerful Recess

*There is no benediction. Instead, you are invited to a solemn recession.
Our worship continues on Easter Day at 11 a.m.*



Posca by Carmelle Beaugelin — Inspired by John 19:1-30

Acrylic on canvas

Posca is an Ancient Roman drink made by mixing acetum — a low quality or spoiled sour wine vinegar — with water, salt, and herbs. Although despised by the upper class and nobility of Rome, it was the cocktail of choice for Roman soldiers and the lower classes. Soaked in a sponge and attached to a hyssop branch, Posca was likely the drink offered to Jesus in response to his final statement before his death. Jesus' "I thirst" statement, alongside the offering of this sour cocktail, has become one of the most famous last meals in the history of capital execution.

This despised drink of the poor, consumed by the soldiers of Rome, may offer hints to the social standing of the Roman soldiers performing Jesus' execution in the hierarchy of ancient Roman society. We are reminded throughout the passage that, while it is the soldiers who are charged with the physical labor of carrying out the execution, they were performing as the muscle of the Roman state on behalf of the Jewish religious nobility — who indicted and demanded Jesus' execution in the first place. Matthew's account of the crucifixion recalls that it was one of the soldiers who testified to the truth of who Jesus was in the moments following his death, stating, "Surely he was the son of God!" (Matt. 27:54, NIV)

Posca offers us a symbolic moment of fleeting and subliminal solidarity. The action of offering the soon-to-be-executed Christ a drink from the personal flask of the executioner invites us into the complexity of the actors in the crucifixion: Jesus as a servant of God performing the will of God, and the soldiers as servants to Rome performing the will of the religious leaders. Two cups of power, divine and secular (albeit, religious), converge in the partaking of this final sour drink.

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Rev. Emily Brewer, *Pastor*

J. David Williams, *Director of Music & Organist*

Janis Russell, *Director of the Inspirational Ensemble*

Sandra Long, *Clerk of Session*

Randy Gilliam, *Moderator of Deacons*

Fekade Sergew, *Treasurer*

Desmond Montoutte, *Financial Secretary*

Megan Thomas, *Sunday School Supervisor*

Harriet Bodner, *Administrative Assistant*

Session

2026

Evan Bjornen
Michelle Clarke
Fred Doolittle
Cornelius Minor
Janis Russell

2027

Nelson Kezoh
Desmond Montoutte
Fekade Sergew
Megan Thomas
Andrew Wright

2028

Amy Carlson
Charlie Holder-Foster
Katie Kelleher
Debora Kellogg
David Sumner

Deacons

2026

Marcia Dowell
Randy Gilliam
Kevin Morris
Victoria Thomasch

2027

Jane Adams
Walis Johnson
Michael Oyelola
Daniel Tracy

2028

Hunter Armstrong
Craig Bannister
Robert Cashill
Ivy Metz