



St. George's
Episcopal
Church

Good Friday
Liturgy of the Day
with Sung Passion

7 pm

April 18, 2025

You are welcome at
St. George's Church:
Inclusive of race,
nationality,
sexual orientation,
gender expression,
or tradition.

April 18, 2025

The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

- Book of Common Prayer, pg. 855

Welcome to St. George's!



Whether you are worshiping online or in person, we are glad you are here.

Office Hours

Please note our office is closed

April 21 - 22. If you have a pastoral emergency and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573.

Connect with Us

We'd love to get to know you and help get you connected with our parish ministries, formation, and fellowship groups.



Visit StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/connect or scan the QR code and we'll be in touch. You can also fill out the Newcomer Card in your pew and drop it in the offering plate.



For the latest news and events, sign-up to receive our weekly e-newsletter, The St. Georgian: StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/ewnews.

Giving

We believe in a generous, loving, and giving God. We invite our church family to embrace generosity as a lifelong, joyful, transforming, and liberating response to God's call to us. Thank you for your generous support.

Note that cash or offerings designated "Good Friday Offering" will be given to the four dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Loose and offerings designated "Easter Offering" will be given to our Communion Alms which clergy use to help those experiencing financial hardships.



You can make a financial gift:

- **In-person:** place gift in collection plate in the aisle.
- **Online - one-time or recurring:** StGeorgesEpiscopal.net/giving. Or scan the QR code.
- **Text:** Send a text message with the dollar amount [e.g. \$50] to: 540.701.4133)

You can also mail a check to the church office:

P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404 *Thank you!*

Walking Together

Pastoral Care at St. George's is a ministry of the clergy and the laity. By walking with each other through times of joy and times of sorrow, the love of Christ is revealed.

Prayer Ministers are available to pray with you during our worship services and outside of worship times on the phone. Our Prayer Group provides intercessory prayer weekly. Our One Body Response Team (OBRT) offers prayers, sends cards, and responds to other needs as able.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are available to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

Our Wednesday Noon Eucharist service in the nave includes prayers for healing and anointing.

Prayer Shawls are available upon request. These mantles of healing and comfort are made by our ministry teams.

If you need support or encouragement, please consider reaching out to our church office (540.373.4133; office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net). You may also contact clergy directly to make an appointment.

If you have a pastoral care emergency (death, serious illness, or other crisis) and need to speak with clergy, please call or text 540.361.8573 to reach clergy on call.

Land and Labor Acknowledgment

We give thanks for the land which God created as a precious gift. We honor the Indigenous peoples who long knew the land of our parish more than 10,000 years before it was established over 300 years ago, including the Patawomeck and Rappahannock Tribes who still live here. Please see our website for the full text of our land acknowledgment.

We also honor the people of African descent whose enslaved labor supported the parish for the first half of its history. Rooted in the Gospel, repentant of sin, we are nurturing faith and seeking justice, healing, and repair of relationships amid the complexity of our times.

Good Friday

April 18, 2025

About today's service and readings:

Good Friday is the day in the Christian calendar when we commemorate the betrayal, trial, crucifixion, and death of Jesus Christ. It is a day of intense feelings, from which we derive the term "Passion" to refer to the story. It is a day of sorrow, and of gratitude in the midst of tragedy. It is also a day in which we struggle with the reality that we are all responsible for Jesus' death and the crucifixion of many around us. These are hard feelings, and Christians have often sought a scapegoat to escape blame.

The Greek phrase "hoi ioudaios," translated as "the Jews," is used throughout the Gospel according to John to refer to people from the region of Judah and people adhering to the beliefs and customs associated with the God of Israel. In the trial and crucifixion narrative, "the Jews" refers more specifically to the Jewish authorities who sought Jesus' execution, not the entire Jewish people. This misunderstanding has been and still is used as justification for abhorrent anti-Jewish rhetoric and violence, culminating in the Shoah, or holocaust.

We continue to use John's passion because of its literary beauty, the fullness of the story, and its historical centrality in the Church's commemoration of Good Friday. We choose to retain it because we believe it is instructive for Christians to sit in the discomfort of how our sacred texts have been misread and misused to perpetuate violence. We contemplate on Good Friday the fallenness of humanity, of which anti-Judaism is a central example.

-The Rev Joe Hensley

A note from the composer:

I composed the St. John Passion in 2022 to provide an accessible choral version that would draw the listener into the scenes depicted in John's Gospel. There are elements of chant, contemporary choral writing and jazz in the piece, which is scored for choir, soloists, alto flute, viola and vibraphone. The scenes of the Passion, the Garden of Gethsemane, the arrest, Peter's denial, the trial before Pilate, and so on, each have an accompanying theme expressed by a short melodic segment or leitmotif that establishes the mood on each segment of the journey to Calvary.

-John H. Vreeland, Director of Music Ministries

Good Friday

April 18, 2025

from the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP), and *Enriching Our Worship*, supplemental liturgical materials approved by the Episcopal Church.

We invite you to prepare for worship by observing silence or taking time for private prayer. Please take a moment to silence cell phones and alarms. We are glad you are here!

Good Friday Offering: We believe in a generous, loving, and giving God. Please note that cash or check offerings in the offering plate designated "Good Friday Offering" (or given online – see inside cover of bulletin for more information) will be given to the four Episcopal dioceses of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East.

The clergy enter in silence. All kneel as able or remain seated for silent prayer.

Celebrant: Blessed be our God.

People: For ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says the Collect of the Day

BCP 276

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

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. Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? 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, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our

Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12

own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: Thanks be to God.

The St. John's Passion

Chanted by the Choir

Kaylee Payne, viola; Tina Christie, alto flute; John H. Vreeland, vibraphone

To encourage listening to the sung passion, we have not included the text. If you would like to read along, feel free to use the Bible provided in your pew. All are invited to stand as able when the clergy signals you to do so. Following the Passion the people are seated. A few minutes of silence will be observed.

John 18:1 - 19:42

Music by John H. Vreeland

The Solemn Collects

BCP 277

The people kneel as able.

Dear People of God: Our heavenly Father sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved; that all who believe in him might be delivered from the power of sin and death, and become heirs with him of everlasting life.

Let us pray for the holy Catholic Church of Christ throughout the world;

For its unity in witness and service; For all bishops and other ministers and the people whom they serve; For Mark and Gayle, our Bishops, and all the people of this diocese; For all Christians in this community; For those about to be baptized

That God will confirm his Church in faith, increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.
Silence

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all nations and peoples of the earth, and for those in authority among them;

For the President of the United States; For the Congress and the Supreme Court; For the Members and Representatives of the United Nations; For all who serve the common good; That by God's help they may seek justice and truth, and live in peace and concord.

Silence

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility your dominion may increase, until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who suffer and are afflicted in body or in mind;

For the hungry and the homeless; the destitute and the oppressed; For the sick and the wounded; For those in loneliness, fear, and anguish; For those who face temptation, doubt, and despair; For the sorrowful and bereaved; For prisoners and captives, and those in mortal danger; That God in his mercy will comfort and relieve them, and grant them the knowledge of his love, and stir up in us the will and patience to minister to their needs.

Silence

Gracious God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer: Let the cry of those in misery and need come to you, that they may find your mercy present with them in all their afflictions; and give us, we pray, the strength to serve them for the sake of him who suffered for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us pray for all who have not received the Gospel of Christ;

For those who have never heard the word of salvation; For those who have lost their faith; For those hardened by sin or indifference; For the contemptuous and the scornful; For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ and persecutors of his disciples; For those who in the name of Christ have persecuted others; That God will open their hearts to the truth, and lead them to faith and obedience.

Silence

Merciful God, creator of all the peoples of the earth and lover of souls: Have compassion on all who do not know you as you are revealed in your Son Jesus Christ; let your Gospel be preached with grace and power to those who have not heard it; turn the hearts of those who resist it; and bring home to your fold those who have gone astray; that there may be one flock under one shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us commit ourselves to God, and pray for the grace of a holy life, that, with all who have departed this world and have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to God alone, we may be accounted worthy to enter into the fullness of the joy of our Lord, and receive the crown of life in the day of resurrection.

Silence

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 172: "Were you there"

Were you there

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, 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 pierced him in the side?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The Lord's Prayer

Kneel, as able

Celebrant: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Choral Anthem: "Crucifixus"

John H. Vreeland

Translation: He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered, and was buried.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The service concludes in silence.



Holy Week and Easter Worship

Holy Saturday – April 19

8:30 am: Morning Prayer in our Nave

5 pm: Liturgy of the Light in Sydnor Hall – for children and their families

8 pm: The Great Vigil of Easter in the Nave

Easter Sunday – April 20

6:30 am: Micah Sunrise Service – The Presbyterian Church

7:45 am, 9 am (also on YouTube Live), 11:15 am, 5:30 pm:

Joyful Easter Eucharist

10:15 am: Our Easter Egg Hunt returns!

Scan to
learn more



Vestry

If you have questions or concerns,
please reach out to our Vestry
(elected lay leaders).

To reach the Vestry, please email: vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net. To reach an individual vestry member, please contact the church office at office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net or 540.373.4133.

Pete Kelly, 2025

Senior Warden

Kit Burns, 2027

Junior Warden

Brian Davis, 2025

Buildings and Grounds Warden

Brooke Di Lauro, 2025

Peggy Verdine, 2025

Katie Green, 2026

Gabi Kelly, 2026

Rogers Lawson, 2026

Jennifer Vaughan, 2026

Wendy Cannon, 2027

Robert Powers, 2027

Linda Wickersham, 2027

Peggy Mathias

Treasurer

Serving Today

Thank you to our worship leaders serving today. If you would like to volunteer, contact the church office: office@stgeorgesepiscopal.net.

Clergy:

The Rev. Joseph H. Hensley, Jr.

Lesson:

David Durham

Usher:

Chip Willis

Gabi Kelly

Greeters:

Peggy Verdine

Kathryn Willis

Contact Our Vestry:

The Vestry is our elected, lay leadership council led by our Senior Warden Pete Kelly and our Junior Warden Kit Burns. The Vestry welcomes your questions, concerns, and feedback.

Email them at: vestry@stgeorgesepiscopal.net

St. George's Episcopal Church

905 Princess Anne Street

Fredericksburg, VA 22401

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7127

Fredericksburg, VA 22404

540.373.4133 (office)

Pastoral Emergencies:

540.361.8573 (call or text)

StGeorgesEpiscopal.net
