

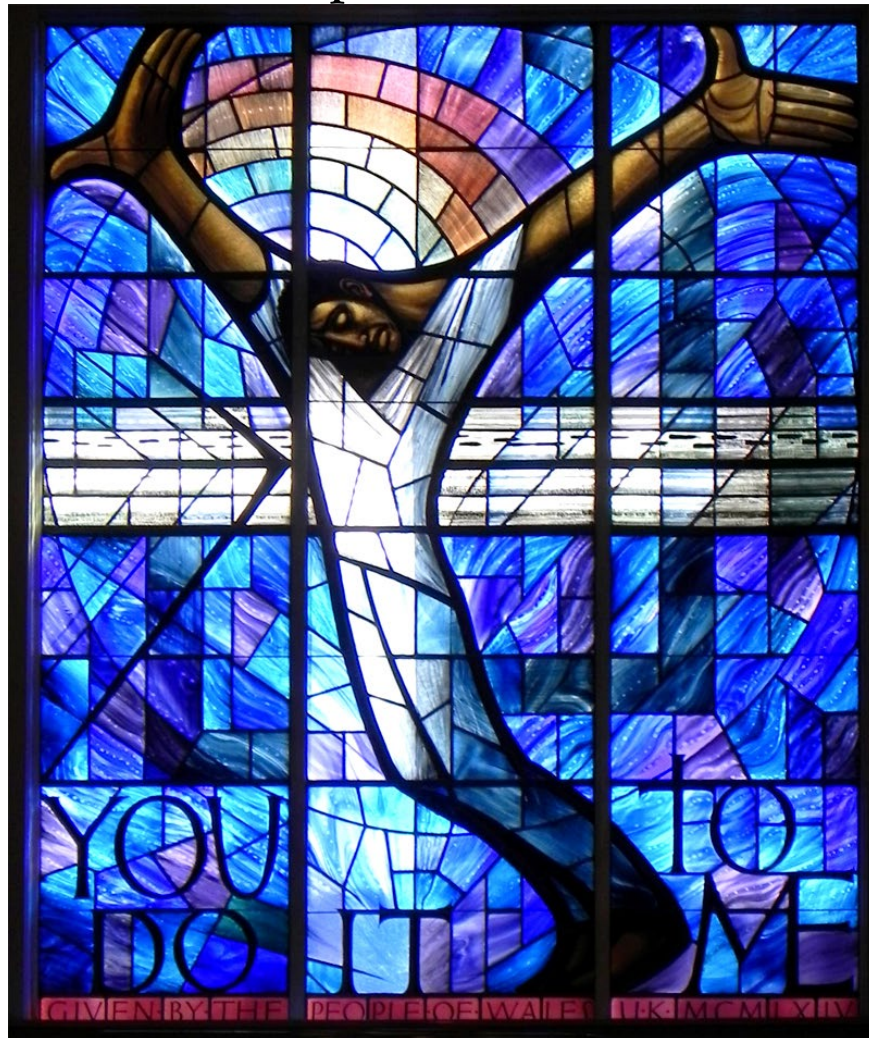
The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul

Newton Highlands, Massachusetts

Good Friday

Voices from the Foot of the Cross - A Liturgy of Passion Narratives -

April 3, 2026



From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

GOOD FRIDAY
Voices from the Foot of the Cross
with Holy Communion

From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

Prelude

Musicians

Invocation

Please rise as you are comfortable

Presider Blessed be our God.

People **For ever and ever. Amen.**

Presider Let us pray

Presider From the fragmented world of our everyday lives, we gather together in search of wholeness. By many cares and preoccupations, by diverse and separate aims we are separated from one another and divided even within ourselves. And so we bid each other welcome, from wherever we have come, with whatever doubts and fears and sorrows and shame and pain and rage and resignation we bring, we are each and all welcome here tonight.

All **Just as we are. Just as we are. Just as we are.**

And so we pray:

God of the light and of the darkness,

heal our fractures and divisions, and restore us to wholeness.

God of the light and of the darkness,

open our eyes to the signs all around us which reveal your presence.

God of the light and of the darkness,

open our ears to your voice proclaimed in unexpected places.

God of the light and of the darkness,
open our hearts to your love, wrapped in those you have sent to
share our lives.

God of the light and of the darkness,
remind us here tonight that we are holy in our weakness.

Collect for Courage in Trying Times

Presider Christ is with you.

All And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Spirit of integrity, you drive us out into the desert to search out your truth. Give us wisdom to know what is loving and just, rejecting what is merely expedient or safe; that we may abandon the false innocence of failing to choose at all, and may follow in the bold and compassionate steps of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Psalm

Psalm 22:1-11

Please be seated

**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,
and are so far from my cry
and from the words of my distress?**

**O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer;
by night as well, but I find no rest.**

**Yet you are the Holy One,
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.**

**Our forebears put their trust in you;
they trusted, and you delivered them.**

They cried out to you and were delivered;
they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm, and less than human,
scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn;
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

“You trusted in God for deliverance;
let God rescue you, if God delights in you.”

Yet you, O God, are the one who took me out of the womb
and kept me safe upon my mother’s breast.

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born;
you were my God when I was still in my mother’s womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

LEVAS, #37 – Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

We will sing verses 1 – 3. Please rise as you are comfortable.

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? _____ Were you
 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? _____ Were you
 3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? _____ Were you
 4. Were you there when He rose up from the grave? _____ Were you

1. there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 2. there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 3. there when they laid Him in the tomb? O!
 4. there when He rose up from the grave?

Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem - ble. _____

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? _____
 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? _____
 3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? _____
 4. Were you there when He rose up from the grave? _____

VOICES FROM THE FOOT OF THE CROSS

Presider

Almighty God, we pray you graciously to behold this your family, for whom our Savior 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.

Presider We walk with you our brother Jesus, and we bless you.

All **Because by your uncompromising love, you have redeemed the world.**

Please be seated

The Beloved Disciple

Presider Let us hear from the Beloved Disciple.

The reader recounts the narrative of the Beloved Disciple, recalling their experience of Jesus from the Last Supper through the crucifixion.

After the narrative, a minute of silence will be kept.

Presider Together let us pray.

All **Gracious God, who shares our joys and sorrows, who abides with us and suffers with us in ways that we cannot imagine: mercifully grant that, walking in the way of your love, which may ultimately lead us to the cross, we may find the way of peace and life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Mary of Magdala

Presider Let us hear from Mary of Magdala.

The reader recounts the narrative of Mary Magdalene who anointed Jesus with Myrrh and walked with him to the cross.

After the narrative, a minute of silence will be kept.

Presider Together let us pray.

All **Loving God, who yearns for our companionship and love; mercifully grant that we may find the way of peace and life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

High Priest's Servant

Presider Let us hear from the High Priest's Servant in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The reader recounts the narrative of the High Priest's servant after his ear is cut off by one of Jesus' followers in the Garden of Gethsemane.

After the narrative, a minute of silence will be kept.

Presider Together let us pray.

All **Healing God who knows our rush to violence well; mercifully grant that we may find the way of peace and life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Simon Peter

Presider Let us hear from Simon Peter after his denial of Jesus.

The reader recounts the narrative of Jesus' apostle, Peter, after Peter denies Jesus three times, just as Jesus predicted he would at the Last Supper.

After the narrative, a minute of silence will be kept.

Presider Together let us pray.

All **Understanding God who knows the fear and insecurity that often claim our actions; mercifully grant that we may find the way of peace and life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Servant Girl

Presider Let us hear from the Servant Girl who witnessed Peter's denial.

The reader recounts the narrative of one of the witnesses to Simon Peter's denial of Jesus.

After the narrative, a minute of silence will be kept.

Presider Together let us pray.

All **Forgiving God who knows our deepest ruses and regrets; mercifully grant that we may find the way of peace and life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Prisoner Barabbas

Presider Let us hear from the Prisoner Barabbas.

The reader recounts the narrative of the prisoner, convicted of murder, who was released by Pilate at the request of the crowd.

After the narrative, a minute of silence will be kept.

Presider Together let us pray.

All **Welcoming God who knows how lost and alone we can feel; mercifully grant that we may find the way of peace and life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Simon of Cyrene

Presider Let us hear from Simon of Cyrene, who carried Jesus' cross.

The reader recounts the narrative of the ordinary bystander, Simon of Cyrene, who was arbitrarily snagged by the Roman guards and forced to carry Jesus' cross.

After the narrative, a minute of silence will be kept.

Presider Together let us pray.

All **Holy God whose image on our hearts has made us worthy, and whose grace has made us pure; mercifully grant that we may find the way of peace and life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Roman Centurion

Presider Let us hear from the Roman Centurion after Jesus' death.

The reader recounts the narrative of the Roman centurion after watching Jesus die.

After the narrative, a minute of silence will be kept.

Presider Together let us pray.

All **Justice-loving God whose call draws us always to spread your will in the world; mercifully grant that we may find the way of peace and life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

A Woman who followed Jesus from Galilee

Presider Let us hear from a Woman who followed Jesus from Galilee.

The reader recounts the narrative of a woman who had followed Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem.

After the narrative, a minute of silence will be kept.

Presider Together let us pray.

All **Loving God who knows our deepest suffering and despair, and weeps with us as we groan and grieve; mercifully grant that we may find the way of peace and life, through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

As we conclude hearing the voices at the foot of the cross, we sing together "Stay With Me" from the Taizé community.

The image shows a musical score for the song "Stay With Me" from the Taizé community. It consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are for the vocal line, with lyrics underneath. The last two staves are for the piano accompaniment. The music is in a simple, contemplative style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are: "Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and pray. Watch and pray." The piano accompaniment features simple chords and a steady rhythm.

Our Confession of Sin

People and Presider

O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment,
our despair, our greed, our arrogance, and our fear.

We have not loved you with our whole hearts.

We have not truly loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are sorry, we are humbled,

and we pray that you will strengthen us with your grace.

We turn to you, O God.

We renounce evil, we claim love, we choose to be made whole.

Forgive us and renew us now.

Presider

Almighty God, have mercy on you, forgive your every sin through our
Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of
the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Gathering Around the Altar

*At this time, the congregation is invited to gather around the altar for Communion. If
you would prefer to remain at your seat, please feel free to do so.*

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves in treble and bass clefs. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the notes.

The Lord's Prayer

You are invited to say whichever version of the Lord's Prayer moves you.

Presider

As our savior Christ has taught us, we now pray

**Our loving God in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Holy Communion from Reserve Sacrament

Presider

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and loved, died, and rose for you. And feed on Christ in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Shared communion will be in one kind this evening. Please pass the bread with the words, "The body of Christ. The bread of life."

If you have remained at your seat and would like communion, please come forward at this time.

If you are in the circle and do not wish to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest when your neighbor turns to offer you communion, and your neighbor will bless you with a bow and then offer communion to the person on your left.

Please return to your seat after you have received communion or a blessing.

Communion Song

As we return to our seats for a few moments of reflective meditation, we will sing "Jesus, Remember Me" from the Taizé Community.

The image shows a musical score for the song "Jesus, Remember Me" in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass clef. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is presented in two systems, each with a treble and bass staff.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your kin - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your kin - dom.

Postcommunion Prayer

Presider We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All **Because by your uncompromising love you have redeemed the world.**

Presider Those who work for change suffer resistance.

All **O God, strengthen our faith.**

Presider Those who dare new ways risk rejection.

All **O God, give us courage.**

Presider Those who challenge the world often arouse anger.

All **O God, season us with serenity.**

Presider Those who live in joy are often envied and reproached.

All **O God, bless us with humble hearts.**

Presider Those who live with love are often met with hate.

All **O God, deepen our compassion and our capacity to love and serve you, your creation, your communities, your creatures, and ourselves. Amen.**

Presider We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

All **Because by your uncompromising love you have redeemed the world.**

Presider We know that the story is not yet finished, and so we go forth with faithful, hopeful hearts to await the dawn of the new day that is the resurrection.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Choir

Were You There?

How long O Lord will thou forget me forever?

How long will thou hide thy face from me?

How long, O Lord?

How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?

My flesh trembles for fear of thee and I am afraid of thy judgments, O Lord.

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Lighten my eyes lest I sleep the sleep of death,

lest my enemy say, I have prevailed over him

lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

*But I have trusted in thy steadfast love!
My heart shall rejoice in thy salvation,
I will sing to the Lord!
Because he has dealt so bountifully with me.
Worship Lord and tremble before him the earth!*

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Sometimes it cause me to tremble...*

Arr. Mia Makaroff (b.1970)

*The congregation sits together in silence until the candle is extinguished.
Then, you are most welcome to remain in silent meditation for a time.
Please come forward, as you may be moved, to venerate the cross.*

*Please feel free to make your Good Friday offering to the Diocese of Jerusalem and
place it in the basket located on the table at the entrance to the church.*



This Evening's Liturgical Participants

The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney – Priest-in-Charge

Brenda Carter – Accompanist

Voices – Parishioners of the Parish of St. Paul

Ellie Pandorf – Altar Guild

Cover Art

Petts, John, 1914-1991. Christ Crucified, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57342> [retrieved March 31, 2026]. Original source: <http://christianchurchestogether.org/letter-from-birmingham-jail/>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week and Easter Liturgies

POSP joins again with some of our sibling parishes in Newton:

April 4 at 7:30pm: Holy Saturday - The Great Vigil of Easter at Trinity Church, Newton Centre

April 5 at 10am: Easter Day - The Feast of the Resurrection at the Parish of St. Paul

Morning Prayer on Thursdays at Grace Church, Newton Corner

Grace Church, Newton Corner offers Morning Prayer on Thursday mornings at 8am in the chapel. POSP parishioners are invited to attend.

Prayer List

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please email Lise in the parish office or use this QR code.



Altar Flowers

If you would like to contribute altar flowers for a thanksgiving or memorial, please be in contact with Lise in the parish office.

Pastoral Care

If you desire pastoral care for a particular need, please be in contact with Rev. Meghan. It could be as simple as a private prayer request emailed to her, or an in-person conversation about something of concern.

Can Redemption Volunteers

Volunteers sought to assist with can redemption for the Plenty ministry. Please connect with Christopher Gruener or speak with Rev. Meghan if you can assist.

Receive the Parish Newsletter!

The newsletter is sent about once per week (occasionally more often if there is a pressing notice, for example, of snow cancellation, etc.). **The newsletter contains reflections from parishioners and *lots* of information and announcements about our diocese, the greater church, and other goings-on in and around town and in the world, that are not printed in this bulletin.**

Scan to access
this week's newsletter



Scan to sign up to
receive the newsletter



Episcopal Leadership

The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth – Bishop Diocesan, The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts (diomass.org)

The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas and the Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool, Assisting Bishops, The Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe – Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church (episcopalchurch.org)

Staff and Office Hours at the Parish of St. Paul

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney – meghan@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours: In-Person, usually on Wednesday, 9am -1pm and by appointment (please email Rev. Meghan directly if you would like to make an appointment).

Parish Administrator: Lise Brody – office@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours (may vary): Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-1pm

Vestry at the Parish of St. Paul

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to be in touch with your vestry. The next Vestry Meeting is on April 15.

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney

Co-Warden: Kathryn Anderson, kmanderson.english@gmail.com

Co-Warden: David Montgomery, dmontgomery@montlegal.com

Treasurer: Richard Pearce, rpearce144@gmail.com

Clerk: Bernice Cramer, bernicecramer@gmail.com

Natalie Brelsford, nataliesellis17@gmail.com

Chris Gruener, crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com

Lee Hatfield, leebateshatfield@verizon.net

Kim Koger, mkskoger5@gmail.com

Elected Parish Leaders at St. Paul's

Delegates to the Charles River Deanery: Eliza Blay, Kim Koger, David Montgomery, and Mary Lou Pierron


Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Jack Blay and Tricia Tyler; alternate Kim Koger


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