

Please Join Us Easter Sunday



8:45 AM Worship Service in the Memorial Garden  
10:30 AM Worship Service in the Sanctuary

Breakfast will be served in the Family Life Center  
from 9:15 am - 10:15 am.



April 18, 2025

12:00 PM

GOOD  
FRIDAY

First Baptist Church

239 Middle Street P. O. Box 1463 New Bern, NC  
(252) 638-5691 [www.fbchurch.com](http://www.fbchurch.com)

# GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

twelve o'clock noon

April 18, 2025

## GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome Richard Seagle

Time of Reflection (No. 185) Michael McKnight, piano  
*The Old Rugged Cross* - arr. Mark Hayes  
(Congregation is encouraged to reflect upon the words in the hymnal)

\*Call to Worship (based on John 18 - 19) Kerry Peeler

Come, let us gather again in the shadow of the cross of Christ.

**We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.**

Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken savior on a cross?

**Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities. Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.**

Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid. Let us live our lives in a way that indicates why this Friday is called "Good."

**Thanks Be to God, who opened the gates of heaven, that we might have the faith, hope, and love, witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.**

\*Hymn of Remembrance Adult Ensemble  
Wendy Karam, soloist

*The Old Rugged Cross Medley*

**(Solo)** On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain.

**(All)** Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me; for the dear Lamb of God left His glory above to bear it to dark Calvary.

**(Refrain)**

So, I'll cherish the old rugged cross, till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it someday for a crown.

**(Solo)**

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true; its shame and reproach gladly bear.  
Then He'll call me someday to my home faraway,  
where His glory forever I'll share.

**(Refrain)**

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,  
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

**(Refrain)**

And exchange it someday for a crown.

\*Invocation Richard Seagle

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S VOICE

Old Testament Reading (based on Psalm 31) Sheree Bagley

Intergenerational Litany for Good Friday

Joey Holton Family

Prayers of the People (in unison) Michael McKnight

**This Good Friday we join our voices to the words of Jesus on the cross, and the cry of all who are abandoned, "My God, why have you forsaken me?"**

**Before we race in quickly with the triumphant answer, or the desire to set things right, we need to stand alongside this ancient cry of dereliction.**

**So today we place ourselves with all those who cry out for food and justice, for work and healing, for hope and love, for faith and for meaning: we hear their pain and the pain of Jesus Christ.**

**And because we know that in two days we will be back celebrating and singing, do not let us deny the suffering of Christ and of this world.**

**Today we cry out about - our world, our country, our families and our own struggles O God, our God, we cry out to You do not forsake us. Amen.**

## PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### Voices Around the Cross

(A sequence of reflections based on characters who were present at the Crucifixion of Jesus)

**Characters and actors in order as they appear.**

Narrator	Brant Bills
John	Ronnie Antry
Mary Magdalene	Josie Doak
Mary - Jesus' mother	Brenda Hardee
Good thief on the cross	Todd Price
Roman Soldier	Walt Fuller

At several points during this presentation, the congregation will be asked to sing. Each time we will only sing one stanza. You will be prompted when to sing.

1. No. 186, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"-stanza 1
2. No. 186, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"-stanza 2
3. No. 186, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"-stanza 3
4. No. 186, "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"-stanza 4
5. No. 178, "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"-stanza 1
6. No. 178, "How Deep the Father's Love for Us"-stanza 3

\*Hymn of Waiting No. 190

OH, TO SEE THE DAWN

*The Power of the Cross*

## SENDING FORTH GOD'S PEOPLE

\*Benediction Richard Seagle & Congregation

**Jesus, we wait here by your tomb carrying our grief; the grief of the betrayer, the grief of the denier, the grief of the crucifiers. We carry the grief of the lost, the heartbroken, the sad and the lonely. Upon you was laid the grief of us all. It is finished. God of endings, God of darkness, God of the tomb, God of dark days and great loss, be with us now as we wait with Jesus. Amen.**

Postlude Michael McKnight  
*Beneath the Cross of Jesus* - arr. Mark Hayes