



GOOD FRIDAY

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST
THÉODORE DUBOIS

IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
APRIL 3, 2026 | 7:00 P.M.

*Good Friday is a continuation of the Maundy Thursday service.
Please prepare for the service in a meditative silence befitting worship already begun.*

LITANY

THE REVEREND DAVID J. POWERS

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,
who redeems us from sin and death.
For us and for our salvation,
Christ became obedient unto death, even death on a cross.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

*BIDDING PRAYER

REV. POWERS

LES SEPT PAROLES DU CHRIST THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

*O all ye who travel upon the highway, hearken to me, and behold me:
Was e'er sorrow like unto my sorrow? For the Lord Almighty hath dealt bitterly with me.
Call me now no more Naomi, from today call me Mara.*

I. FIRST WORD

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

*And the people clamored:
He is death - guilty; take him, let us crucify him!
Be his blood on us, and on our children!*

*Then they did crucify Jesus, and the two thieves,
One at his right hand, the other at his left hand.*

II. SECOND WORD

*"Verily, thou shalt be in paradise today with me. Amen, so I tell thee."
Hear me, O Lord, and remember, when thou comest into thy kingdom.*

III. THIRD WORD

"See, O woman! Here behold thy Son beloved."

*See yon mother, bowed in anguish,
Who beside the cross doth languish,
Where on high her son is borne;*

*Is there mortal, who not feeleth
to behold her where she kneeleth,
So woeful, and all forlorn?*

IV. FOURTH WORD

"God, my Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?"

*All those who were my friends, all have now forsaken me,
And they that hate me do now prevail against me;
And he whom I have cherished, he hath betrayed me.*

*Even the vine that I have chosen, and that I have planted:
Wherefore art thou now so strangely turned into bitterness,
That I by thee am crucified?*

V. FIFTH WORD

“I am athirst!”

*And the Jews then passing by him, all did rail upon him,
and wagging their heads at him, they said unto him:*

*Ah! Thou wouldst fain destroy the temple;
If thou be Jesus, Son of the Father, now from the cross descend thou,
That we behold it, and believe on thee when we behold it.
If thou art the king over Israel, save thyself, then!*

VI. SIXTH WORD

“Father, into Thy hands I commend my soul.”

*For Thou art my God and my Father;
Thou art my Savior.
Into Thy hands I commend my soul.*

VII. SEVENTH WORD

*And with a loud voice Jesus cried, exclaiming: “It is finished!”
And he did bow his head, and rendered up his spirit.*

*And it was about the sixth hour; and the sun was darkened,
And darkness covered the earth, until about the ninth hour;
And the veil of the temple was rent, and all the earth did quake;
And the rocks were rent, and all the graves were opened wide.*

CHORAL PRAYER

*Christ we do all adore thee, and we do praise thee, forever;
For on the holy cross hast thou the world from sin redeemed.*

SILENCE

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

*Please remain in silence until the lights are raised.
You are invited to stay in this space for your own time of prayer.*

*When you are ready, please depart in silence, following Jesus into the darkness.
Since the service is not complete until Easter, there will be no benediction.*

ABOUT THIS SERVICE

Théodore Dubois' *The Seven Last Words of Christ* (*Les Sept Paroles du Christ*), composed in 1867, is a poignant cantata for soloists, chorus, and organ that meditates on the final utterances of Jesus on the cross. While rooted in the traditional liturgical form of the "Seven Last Words," the text draws from a combination of Gospel accounts and poetic interpolations. Some movements quote scripture directly, while others expand with devotional reflections that are not strictly biblical—reflecting 19th-century French Catholic sensibilities and a Romantic-era emphasis on emotional expression. The anonymous libretto likely draws from liturgical and meditative sources common in the period, intended not as a strict biblical narration but as a spiritual contemplation. Dubois' music enhances this devotional character, emphasizing tenderness, sorrow, and reverence through expressive melodies and rich harmonic language.

THE MUSICIANS IN THIS EVENING'S SERVICE

Gary Beard, *Interim Organist-Director of Music/Conductor*

The Idlewild Chancel Choir

Jacqueline Cooper, *soprano*

Mark Diamond, *baritone*

William Compton, *tenor*

Marian Shaffer, *harp*

Ed Murray, *timpani*

Diamond Strings

Barrie Cooper, *violin*

Yennifer Correia, *violin*

Aaron Tubergen, *viola*

Kimberly Patterson, *cello*

EASTER SUNDAY

Join us for worship at 8:30 or 11:00 am on Sunday, April 5.



IDLEWILD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
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