



CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# WALKING THROUGH HOLY WEEK

*A book of meditation and prayer*





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# Before You Begin

Beloved CPC Family,

Welcome to Holy Week – the time that the Church has historically remembered the week that forever changed the world! We want to invite you to consider Jesus' astounding sacrifice, as we walk through the prophecy in Isaiah.

Each day includes a reading from Isaiah, a brief meditation to explain the passage, a prayer, and space for your own reflection. Please interact slowly and intentionally through each section. Our desire is that we will all deepen our awareness of Christ's work on the cross and grow in love for Him and His body..

*Craig, Jerry & Annie*

Affectionately,  
Craig, Jerry & Annie



01

GLORY IN SUFFERING



# ISAIAH 52:12-15

FURTHER READING: JOHN 12:32-33

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[12] For you shall not go out in haste,  
and you shall not go in flight,  
for the LORD will go before you,  
and the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

[13] Behold, my servant shall act wisely;  
he shall be high and lifted up,  
and shall be exalted.

[14] As many were astonished at you—  
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

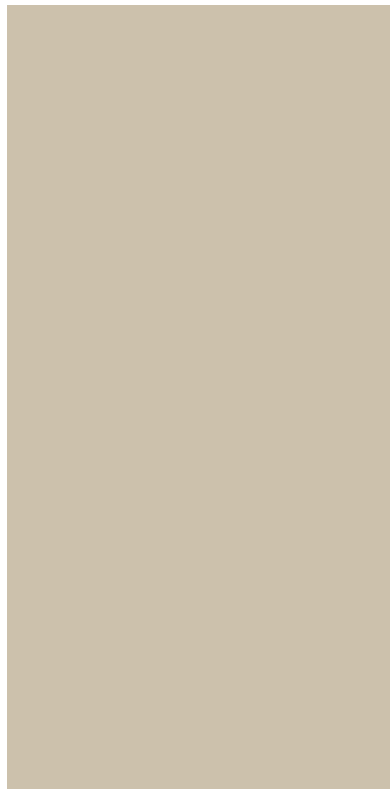
[15] so shall he sprinkle many nations.  
Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,  
for that which has not been told them they see,  
and that which they have not heard they understand. (ESV)

***Meditation:*** Suppose Albert Einstein had been reduced to a tiny mole rat. The shock of Yahweh's servant reduced to human rubble could not have been greater. Is this the way of glory? Yes, what we see in Jesus is a glory unlike any other. There is no place in the whole world on the day of Christ's crucifixion where a person would have looked upon Christ and thought, "this is the place where God's

presence is most visible." But it was through the cross that "many nations were sprinkled." Or as Jesus say's "When I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself." Our redemption is forever secured in the glory of the cross. *"We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you: because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."*

***Response:***









02

| DESPISED & REJECTED

# ISAIAH 53:1-3

FURTHER READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:5-9

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- [1] Who has believed what he has heard from us?  
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
- [2] 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,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.
- [3] He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (ESV)

***Meditation:*** Christ went down further and further into suffering. From the cradle to the cross every step Jesus took was a deliberate step towards what the Apostle's Creed calls the "descent into hell." He knew the sharp pain of rejection. He felt the weightiness of bearing sorrows. And like us he was deeply acquainted with grief. The one who grew up like a young plant before His Father was also the one who did not cling to his right as God. Rather he chose the downward path. He chose the shame, the pain, and the rejection. Moment by moment he walked towards Golgotha opting for obedience to His Father up to

the point of death on a cross. But it was that downward path that led to his exaltation and ultimately our salvation.

*“Father in heaven, turn our minds and our thoughts to Christ in all his humiliation. Disturb our pride and disrupt our arrogance as we look upon your Son, despised and rejected. But open our eyes to see in Him the beauty of our salvation.”*

***Response:***









# 03 | THE CRUSHED SAVIOR

# ISAIAH 53:4-6

FURTHER READING: MATTHEW 27:46

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[4] Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

[5] But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

[6] All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all. (ESV)

***Meditation:*** The veil was complete, there was nothing about Jesus which would have enabled his mockers to see him for who he was. He was the servant of Yahweh and he was dying to save the world. He hung between two thieves and was surrounded by a chorus of ingratitude and mockery, “If you are the Messiah, save yourself and come down from the cross,” the crowds cried. Yet in the middle of this our Lord offers up a shrilling cry: “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” His Father is out of reach.

The intimacy has been broken, one that had never been broken before. But even here, at Christ's lowest point, faith and hope arise as he entrusts his soul, though crushed, into the hands of the God whom he loved. He must walk forward when the road darkens. He must bear our sins and be crushed for our iniquities. His forsakenness becomes our acceptance before the Father. *"Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen."*

***Response:***

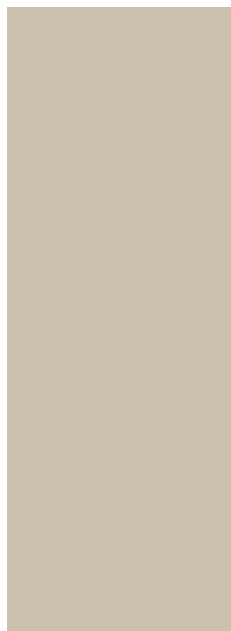






04

SILENT SUBMISSION



# ISAIAH 53:7-9

FURTHER READING: 1 PETER 2:22-25; MATTHEW 27:11-14

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[7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.

[8] By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
and as for his generation, who considered  
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?

[9] And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth. (ESV)

***Meditation:*** Like a lamb being led to the slaughter our Lord remained silent. He offered no defense when he had every right to. Why was our Lord silent before his accusers? He made no defense for himself because he was defending us. Ours was the sin and he refused to let us bear the cross. It was to be *his* cross, a road no one had traveled before and no one has since. Though he was silent he was humbly submitting to his Father's will, fully aware it would lead to

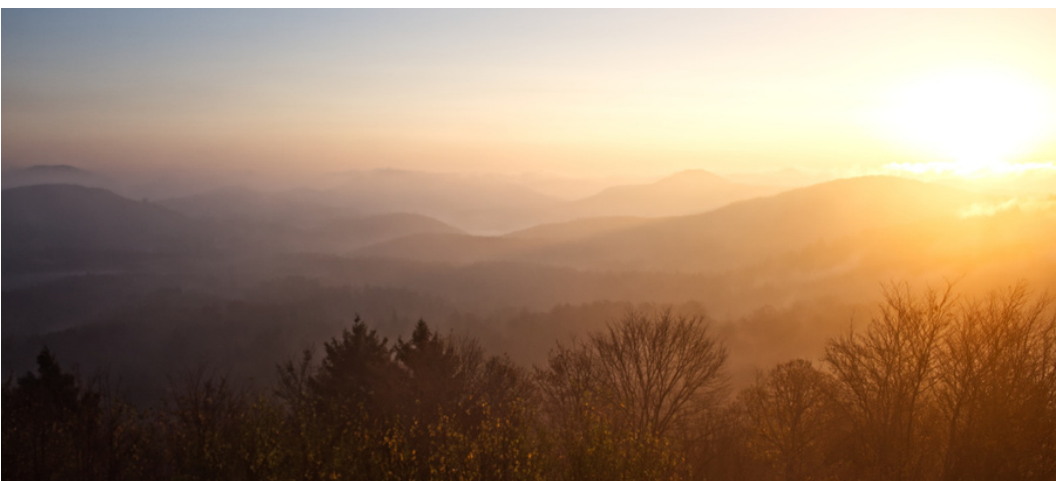
his death, and aware that his death would mean our redemption. *"O my Savior, help me. I am slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb; I am in the foothills when I should be on the heights; I am pained by my graceless heart, I am quick to defend myself, and slow to submit to your will. Conform me, O Lord, to my humble Savior. Amen."*

***Response:***









05

| VICTORY THROUGH SUFFERING

# ISAIAH 53:10-12

FURTHER READING: ROMANS 4:25

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[10] Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;

he has put him to grief;

when his soul makes an offering for guilt,

he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;

the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

[11] Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;

by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,

make many to be accounted righteous,

and he shall bear their iniquities.

[12] Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,

and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,

because he poured out his soul to death

and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,

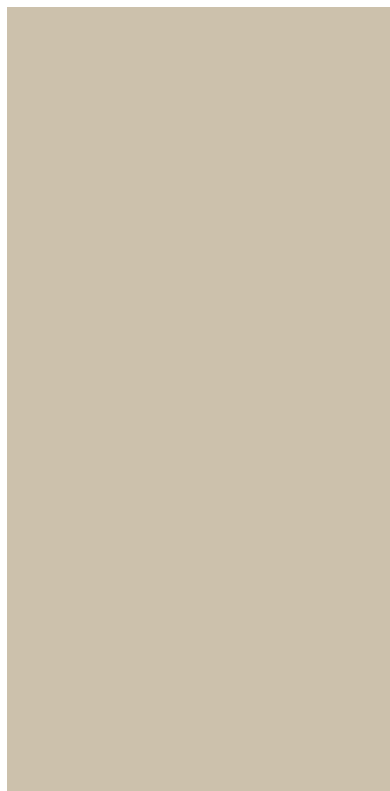
and makes intercession for the transgressors. (ESV)

***Meditation:*** What satisfied Christ? Isaiah plainly tells us: it was our redemption from the punishment of sin so that we will never have to suffer what our sins deserve or descend the depths of darkness he had to endure. What should have been our cross, he made his. But this redemption

was in order for something else. Isaiah looks at us and says, "Listen to this wonderful news: Christ didn't just atone for our sins by dying our death. He was raised from the grave for our justification. Even more, he's given us his righteousness." Our sins are forgiven and our communion with God has been restored. Hallelujah! *"O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."*

***Response:***





ISAIAH 53:11A

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**Out of the  
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