

**Good Friday Service:**  
*The Seven Last Words of Jesus*  
*An Account from Women of the Global South*

We are an ecumenical, multi-racial, multi-ethnic Christian body that reaches out to the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ. To that end we strive to be welcoming, responsive, trusting and prayerful in everything we do.

Somos un cuerpo cristiano ecuménico, multirracial y multiétnico que se extiende al mundo con las Buenas Nuevas de Jesucristo. Con ese fin nos esforzamos ser acogedores, receptivos, confiados y devotos en todo lo que hacemos.



Easter Painting, 1993 © Laura James Used with Permission laurajamesart.com

Prelude

“Oh Sacred Head Now Wounded”

The Occasion

Reverend Elijah R. Zehyoue

Singing Together

“She’s Got the Whole World in Her Hands”

☉ Call to Worship

Reverend Sally Sarratt

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me? I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night I find no rest.

**Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted in you and you delivered them.**

To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. But I am scorned and despised by people, all who see me mock me; they shake their heads.

**Yet it was you that delivered me from the womb; you kept me and my mother safe. Since I have been born, you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.**

Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of bashon surround me. I am poured out like water, my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; my mouth is dry, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; I lay in the dust of death.

**For dogs surround me; a company of evildoers encircles me. They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.**

But you, O Lord, do not be far away. Deliver me from the sword, save me from the power of the dog, from the mouth of the lion!

**O God from the horns of the wild oxen you deliver me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you. Let all who fear the Lord praise him! For you did not despise the afflicted; nor did you hide your face from me. Let all who fear the Lord Praise Him.**

Centering Song

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded/ O Rostro Ensangrentado”  
Chris Urquiaga

☉ Invocation

Reverend Maria Swearingen

Refrain

“She’s Got the Wind and the Rain...”

The First Word

Ms. Sakeenah Shabazz

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. *Luke 23:34*

The Second Word

Ms. Sara Benitez

Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise. *Luke 23:43*

Refrain

“She’s Got the Itty Bitty Baby...”

The Third Word

Minister Barbara Florvil

Woman, here is your son. Son, here is your Mother. *John 19:26-27*

The Fourth Word

Ms. Jackie Wright

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? *Matthew 27:46*

Refrain

“She’s Got Everybody Here...”

**The Fifth Word**  
**I Thirst.** *John 19:28*

**Ms. Sarah Settels Palacios**

**Special Music**

“Recuérdame” (Remember Me from the Movie, *Coco*)  
Chris Urquiaga

**The Sixth Word**  
**It is finished.** *John 19:30*

**Ms. Rhea Williams**

**The Last Word**  
**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.** *Luke 23:46*

**Minister Kerri Lee Alexander**

☉ **Departing Verse**

“She’s Got the Hurting and the Dying...”

**Postlude**

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**Ms. Sakeenah Shabazz** is an activist, advocate, and community leader in the issues of hunger and racial justice. She is a graduate of Georgetown University where she earned her B.A. in Philosophy and a native of San Diego, California. Currently she is a Program and Operations Associate at the Congressional Hunger Center. She was formerly an Emerson Fellow where she did field research at the Jesuit Social Research Institute in New Orleans and SNAP policy research in D.C. She also served as an AmeriCorps Volunteer with City Year in Seattle. Sakeenah has been attending Calvary Baptist Church since 2017.

**Ms. Sara Benitez** is the Vice President of Organizing at Faith in Public Life where she works to empower clergy and lay leaders of all faith traditions to lead in their communities and promote their values. Sara cut her teeth in advocacy as a Research Analyst at the National Council of La Raza, where she made the case for policy changes that could increase opportunities for Latino families. Growing up in Idaho and Colorado, Sara was inspired by the example of local leaders, including her parents, grandmother, and clergy, who dedicated themselves to community service and advocating for the Latino community. She received a thorough education in advocacy and service at Wellesley College and deepened her understanding of the Latino diaspora at the University of Texas at Austin where she received a Master's in Latin American Studies.

**Minister Barbara Florvil** is the Assistant to the Pastor for Youth at Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia. Prior to this role, she was the Education and Evaluation Coordinator at Berean Community and Family Life Center and a Public Allies Fellow. She has extensive experience as an advocate for youth and women working with the Sankofa Youth Project, The Ark Foundation for women’s and girl’s human rights in Ghana, and with the King County District Attorney’s Office. She is a graduate of Tufts University where she earned her B.A. in Education and Child Development, the University of Ghana where she studied Ghanaian Literature and Languages, and Princeton Theological Seminary where she earned the Master of Divinity.

**Ms. Jackie Wright** is a professional Meetings and Events Planner as well as an activist in Washington, DC. She uses her skills in project management and client relationship building both for work at her day job and to help the organizations, churches, and nonprofits she supports. Since 2014, she has been an active lay leader with the Washington Interfaith Network working on their campaigns for affordable housing and ending homelessness as well as helping to conduct “3 Day Training.” She is a graduate of Vassar College where she earned a B.A. in Political Science and George Washington University where she earned a certificate in Event Management. She is also a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

**Ms. Sarah Settels Palacios** is a youth activist and globally conscious student leader. As a junior at Basis DC, Sarah is deeply committed to using her studies and her voice to challenge her peers to engage the world around them and confront racial injustice, sexism, and anti-immigrant xenophobia. Her unique background as the granddaughter of Reverend Edgar Palacios, a leader in the freedom movement in El Salvador, and growing up in a household where every member of her family has a different passport, has shaped her to see the intersections of many injustices. She is dedicated to using her inspiring story as a daughter of a German

dad and Mexican and Salvadoran Mom, and a native of DC who has been influenced by the rich legacy of Black history here. She uses her language skills and cultural competency to translate values and ideas of hope to different worlds. Sarah is fluent in English, Spanish, and German, and has studied and plans to study many more languages including Arabic and Swahili. Sarah has been a member of Calvary since 2002.

**Ms. Rhea Naomi Williams** is currently a fellow at Sojourners Magazine, which covers the intersection of faith, culture, and politics from a social justice lens. She grew up in the San Francisco East Bay Area with Indian immigrant parents, and recently graduated with her B.A. in Psychology from Westmont College. Before joining Sojourners she spent her final semester of college in the Downtown Program for Social Entrepreneurship learning how to engage with social injustices in the local community, and interning at the County of Santa Barbara to develop grant-funded educational programming for unemployed community members. She also studied abroad in Turkey, Egypt, and Israel and Palestine in 2016, and came back to the US with a greater understanding of her own identity and spurred her interest in implicit bias, prejudice, and colorblind racial attitudes in the context of the Church. She is also a gifted pianist and singer and has been attending Calvary since she moved to DC last August.

**Minister Kerri Lee Alexander** is a theologian and activist from Bloomfield, Connecticut. She is also a Ph.D. student in the History Department at Howard University where her doctoral research is focused on Caribbean enslaved women and Caribbean slave displacement via the Transatlantic Slave Trade. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Arts Administration (Nonprofit Management) from Wagner College, and subsequently earned the Master of Arts in Theological Studies with Certificates in Black Church Studies and Theology, Women and Gender from Princeton Theological Seminary where she worked closely with Dr. Yolanda Pierce and Dr. Albert Rabateau. She serves as the Education and Public History Fellow at the National Women's History Museum, and is a member of the newly established Kingdom Fellowship AME Church in Silver Spring, MD. Upon completion of her PhD, she hopes to continue to reach broad audiences and interest groups, with her roots firmly planted in faith-driven leadership, historical competency, ethics, and service.

**More about the artist:** Laura James has been working as a professional artist and illustrator for over twenty years. In addition to painting sacred images from various religions, she portrays women, families, and scenes of everyday life; blending intricate patterns, text, vibrant colors and sometimes surreal imagery into what she calls "art for the people." Laura is best known for her illustrations in The Book of the Gospels lectionary published in 2000 by Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago, Illinois. An award winning edition of the four gospels, it includes 34 paintings rendered in the Ethiopian Christian Art style which over the years Ms. James has made her own. The book is used worldwide by numerous Christian denominations and her religious art is at the forefront of the movement toward a more inclusive representation of Biblical figures. Ms. James has recently expanded her repertoire to include sacred images from other traditions including Buddhism, Yoruba, ancient Egyptian themes and Islam.

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