

## The Historic CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH of Dover, Delaware

Established 1884
The Place Where Life Begins

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Greetings, CBC Family and Friends,

Today, the Christian church worldwide is celebrating Good Friday, the Holiest Day of the Year. Good Friday is at the heart of the Christian faith. It is the day Jesus Christ, the Son of God, suffered and died on the cross for the salvation of humanity. While the name "Good Friday" may seem paradoxical because it commemorates Christ's suffering and death. It was "good" for us, but a brutal, bloody day for Christ.

Jesus endured immense physical and emotional pain for us. He was betrayed by Judas, abandoned by His disciples, falsely accused, and sentenced to death. He was scourged, mocked, crowned with thorns, and forced to carry His cross to Golgotha. Every step of His suffering fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah's description of the Suffering Servant – "He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). His suffering demonstrated his love and mercy.

However, Jesus' death was not just a tragic event—it was a willing sacrifice. He took on the sins of the world and bore them on the cross so that we might have eternal life. His suffering was redemptive, a perfect offering to the Father for the salvation of souls. His death tore the veil of the Temple in two (Matthew 27:51), symbolizing that through His sacrifice, all people now have access to God's mercy.

Good Friday is not just a historical event—it is a call to conversion and a reminder of the depth of God's love. Through Christ's Passion, we are invited to reflect on our own lives, turn away from sin, and embrace the gift of salvation. Good Friday is a day of sorrow, but also a day of hope. Christ's death was not the end of the story. The cross leads to the resurrection, and through His sacrifice, we are given new life.

As we meditate on Good Friday, may we open our hearts to the love of Christ, who gave everything for us. His Passion is the ultimate act of love; through it, we are called to live in His grace.

Give as/He Gave

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