



Welcome! – Riviera Church is a progressive-thinking community in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

We are a family church where families come in all compositions.

We are a thinking church that wrestles with faith issues confronting our society today and strives to make our faith personally relevant and meaningful.

We are a mission-driven church that, since the civil rights movement, has worked for justice and peace for all of God's children.

In our worship, education, and mission, we strive that all will know they are loved unconditionally.



5275 Sunset Drive | Miami, FL 33143
rivierachurch.org
305-666-8586

Ministry Statement

- We engage with each other in joyful worship and thoughtful education;
 - We dedicate our resources and talents to God's work;
 - And we open our hearts in active mission to others.
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- *We celebrate The Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of every month. All are welcome at the table.*
 - *Hearing devices, large print bulletins, and hymnals are available. Please ask an usher.*
 - *Restrooms are accessible by the ramp in the sanctuary. Follow the signs. Changing tables are in both restrooms.*
 - *We want to serve you. If you have a ministry need, don't hesitate to contact Congregational Care Committee Chair Karen at kc33134@aol.com.*
 - *For prayer requests, please email bfah@me.com*
 - *Riviera Presbyterian Church is a proud member of these organizations and a Matthew 25 congregation.*



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

Matthew 25:31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities." (www.pcusa.org/matthew25)

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

SERVICE OF COMMUNION & TENEBRAE

March 28, 2024 7:00 PM

This is the day when Jesus' inner circle abandoned him, denied him, and betrayed him. Open your heart and listen as we tell the story according to the gospel of John.

As Jesus did that evening, we will share a holy meal during communion.

GATHERING

Please note that this service is broadcast via live stream and digitally recorded.

Instructions before communion for those online or Zoom: Prepare a space for communion. Light a candle and place it on your table with bread and a cup filled with wine or grape juice; add any other items (bible or cross) that will make your table a spiritual and holy place.



Please let us know you worshipped with us tonight by scanning and filling out our welcome form or filling out the Welcome Pad.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Melanie Marsh

Beloved people of God: This is the day when Christ, our Passover Lamb, surrendered himself to those who would kill him, setting us free from sin and death forever. This is the day when Christ, the bread of heaven, shared a holy meal with his followers, offering a feast of abundant life and grace for all. Tenebrae means "Darkness". In the darkness of this night, as the light is extinguished, as the room falls silent, let us remember the Holy One, Creator of the darkness and the light, who came to redeem us all. Let us worship God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Cindy Hershey

Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?

We are here.

Peter, slave of fear, where are you?

We are here.

Thomas, slave of doubt, where are you?

We are here.

Men and women of Jerusalem, enslaved to mob rule, where are you?

We are here.

Pilate, slave of expediency, where are you?

We are here.

The story of Christ's passion and death mirrors our own weaknesses and sin. We all come here as those who have missed the mark and are alienated from God and from our neighbor. Let us join together in the prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we fail to fulfill your will. Though you have bound yourself to us, we will not bind ourselves to you. In Jesus Christ, you serve us freely but we refuse your love and withhold ourselves from others. We do not love you fully or love one another as you command.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God sweeps into our human scene, redeeming all who turn from evil and do good. There is grace, mercy, and renewed strength for all who earnestly seek the new life Christ brings.

HYMN#215 What Wondrous Love Is This

FIRST READING John 13:31-35

Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. 32If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. 33Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ 34I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God, you are not tied to time or space. You transcend the physical and spiritual distances between us. You part the veil between the here and now, and the time to come. As we come together to share your holy meal, remind us that all we have done and all we will do, has already been redeemed through your timeless, infinite love. **Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

At Riviera Church we practice open communion. You need not be a member of Riviera or any church to share in this sacramental meal.

Communion is a tactile, sensory experience where we symbolically serve a meal that has been handed down to us from the ancient Hebrews at their Passover Table and adapted by Jesus as he shared his last meal with his disciples. You are invited to participate in this communion in any way that fits your faith journey at this time. Whether you are in person, or worshiping online, taste the love that we share together.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & LORD'S PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also, with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, our Mother and our Father, we praise and thank you for your grace that through Christ you established this sacred meal, where we remember all that it cost to embody your love in this world. In this bread we remember his Body In this cup we remember his Blood. By your Holy Spirit, help us to use this gift worthily, to confess and forsake our sins, to confidently believe that all people are reconciled through Christ, that we might grow in faith and love day by day until all may come to know at last to the joy of eternal redemption in You through Jesus Christ, the Love of the world. Amen.

We appreciate the diverse traditions and backgrounds that make up the Riviera community of faith and encourage you to use whatever words for the Lord's prayer are meaningful for you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER unison

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive our sins, as we forgive
those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and
deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the
glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE COMMUNION

We will take communion by intinction, coming forward to receive bread from the common loaf and sharing either red wine or white grape juice by dipping our bread into the common cup.

Gluten-free communion elements are offered separately.

COMMUNION MUSIC#834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, we give you thanks for the feast of redemption we have shared this evening. As you have nourished us with love, let our lives proclaim your great love for the world; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF TENEBRAE CHRIST'S PASSION ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Come Holy Spirit, source of all life. As we hear again the story of the passion, let the same mind be in us that was in Christ, who was a servant that we might be free. Awaken our ears, open our hearts, and sustain the weary with your word. Amen.

JOHN 17: 1-5, 20-26

Susan Mazzola

Jesus Prays with His Disciples

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

20 “I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. 24 Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

25 “Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. 26 I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

SUNG REFRAIN

JOHN 18: 1-11

Amparo Hernandez

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

18 After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” ⁵ They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth.”^a Jesus replied, “I am he.”^b Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus^c said to them, “I am he,”^d they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷ Again he asked them, “Whom are you looking for?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.”^e ⁸ Jesus

answered, “I told you that I am he.^f So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, “I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave’s name was Malchus. ¹¹ Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

SUNG REFRAIN

JOHN 18: 12-14

Karen Collier

Jesus Before the High Priest

12 So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. 13 First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

SUNG REFRAIN

JOHN 18: 15-18

Cindy Hershey

Peter Denies Jesus

15 Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, 16 but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. 17 The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” 18 Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

SUNG REFRAIN

The High Priest Questions Jesus

19 Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. 20 Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. 21 Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." 22 When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" 23 Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" 24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

SUNG REFRAIN**Peter Denies Jesus Again**

25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." 26 One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

SUNG REFRAIN**Jesus Before Pilate**

²⁸Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. ²⁹So Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." ³¹Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves

and judge him according to your law.” The Jews replied, “We are not permitted to put anyone to death.” ³²(This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) ³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” ³⁸Pilate asked him, “What is truth?” After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him.

SUNG REFRAIN

JOHN 18: 38b - 19:16a

Cindy Hershey

Jesus Sentenced to Death

³⁸Pilate asked him, ‘What is truth?’ After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, ‘I find no case against him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?’ ⁴⁰They shouted in reply, ‘Not this man, but Barabbas!’ Now Barabbas was a bandit.

¹⁹Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ and striking him on the face. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, ‘Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him.’ ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns

and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, 'Here is the man!' ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, 'Crucify him! Crucify him!' Pilate said to them, 'Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.' ⁷The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.'

⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, 'Where are you from?' But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, 'Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you?' ¹¹Jesus answered him, 'You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.' ¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, 'If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor.'

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, 'Here is your King!' ¹⁵They cried out, 'Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!' Pilate asked them, 'Shall I crucify your King?' The chief priests answered, 'We have no king but the emperor.' ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

SUNG REFRAIN

JOHN 19: 16b – 30

Rev. Melanie Marsh

¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

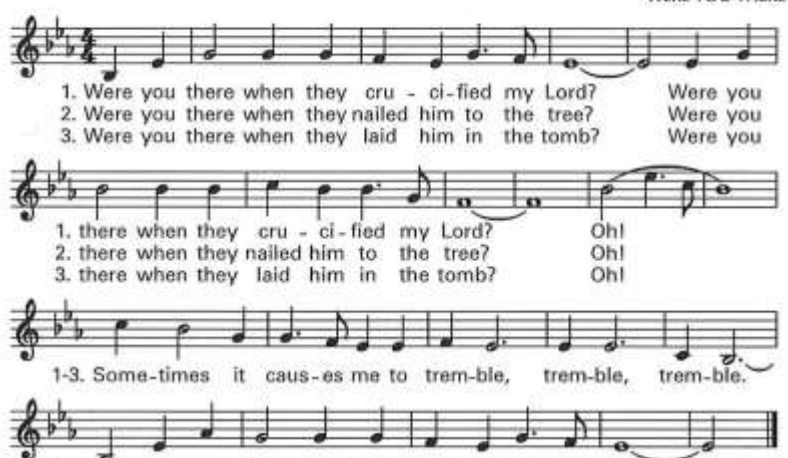
So they took Jesus; ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew^d is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him, and

with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth,^e the King of the Jews.” ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew,^f in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” ²² Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” ²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.” This was to fulfill what the scripture says, “They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.” ²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. ²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), “I am thirsty.” ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Crucifixion of Jesus

WERE YOU THERE

WERE YOU THERE



1. Were you there when they cru - ci-fied my Lord? Were you
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you
3. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you

1. there when they cru - ci-fied my Lord? Oh!
2. there when they nailed him to the tree? Oh!
3. there when they laid him in the tomb? Oh!

1-3. Some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

1. Were you there when they cru - ci-fied my Lord?
2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
3. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Text: 10 10 14 10. Text and music: African American Spiritual

SILENCE *At the close of the hymn, we invite you to reflect on the way of the cross, the path, the week, and the passion. In-person worshipers depart in silence, and online worshipers are free to leave the Zoom room when they are ready.*

We thank the Miami Sound Space's Threshold Choir for sharing its compassionate presence at this powerful service. Its gentle voices and heartfelt melodies offered comfort and peace.

The Threshold Choir's mission centers on singing for individuals and their loved ones navigating end-of-life profound journeys, creating moments of solace, comfort, and peace.

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Entrance Hymn #215 What Wondrous Love Is This #87289 Words and Music - © OCP Contributors: WONDROUS LOVE

Opening Hymn #202 An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare #15338 Contributors: Fred Pratt Green Text: © 1974, Hope Publishing Company

Communion Music: #834 Precious Lord, Take My Hand #59543 Contributors: Thomas A Dorsey Tune: Arr. by Kelly Dobbs Mickus; © 1938, Unichappell Music, Inc.

Scripture Reading Music :#227 Jesus, Remember Me #00122 Contributors: Jacques Berthier, Taizé Community Tune: Jaques Berthier, © 1981, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Text: © 1981, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

Closing Hymn #228 Were You There #84054 Text: 10 10 14 10. Text and music: Spiritual; Old Plantation Hymns, Boston, 1899. Contributors: WERE YOU THERE



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(A Member Congregation of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida)
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Mission Statement

Riviera Presbyterian Church is a spiritual community that accepts and embraces all God's children.

Ministers

Pastor

Director of Music

Certified Church Administrator

Sacred Space Caregiver

All the People

Rev. Melanie Marsh

Dr. Walter Busse

Barbara Prieto

Glenda Bertran

Session	Session	Session
<u>Class of 2024</u>	<u>Class of 2025</u>	<u>Class of 2026</u>
Laura Fothergill	Karen Collier	Amparo Hernandez
Rey Prieto	Susan Mazzola	Kathy Stults
Alejandra Rondon		Lisa Torchut
Butch Sorenson		
Cris Sweeny		

The background of the entire page is decorated with stylized flowers and butterflies. In the top left, there are two large, simple flowers: one with green petals and a white center, and another with yellow petals and an orange center. Along the right edge, there is a vertical arrangement of more detailed flowers, including pink tulips, yellow daffodils, and pink lilies. Small, colorful butterflies (pink, purple, yellow) are scattered across the lower left and bottom center of the page.

Holy Week

Good Friday Service March 29 at 12:00 noon
with our friends at Coral Gables United Church of Christ.

Join us on Good Friday for a solemn service as we mark,
through scripture, reflection, and music, Jesus's suffering and
passion.

Easter Sunday Celebration March 31 at 11:00 am
at Riviera Presbyterian Church

Join us on Easter Sunday as we rejoice in the resurrection of
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Experience the joy of new
life and the triumph of light over darkness as we celebrate
the Risen Lord in a service filled with joy through festive
music, inspiring words, and thoughtful prayers.

Following worship, we will share fellowship time with
refreshments, an Easter egg hunt, and an Easter photo
station.

Season of Creation

Earth Day is in the month of April, and as an Earth Care Congregation, we are honoring the earth throughout April and into May with Part 2 of our Season of Creation Worship Series.

There will be special guests, hands-on activities, engaging worship, and heart-opening conversation.

●04/07 - People of Creation
Butterfly Choir Sings, Creation Tree is unveiled, "Celebration of Creation" Community Meal

●04/14 - Creatures of Creation
Blessing of the Animals

●04/21 - Waters of Creation
Worship concludes with Water is Life panel discussion between **Dr. Tiffany Houston of Jackson Memorial Hospital, and Jenny Staletovich, reporter for WLRN.**

Dr. Houston has done a lot of work around the affects of climate change on children's health, especially related to water quality and sea level rise.

Jenny Staletovich is an environmental reporter for WLRN in Miami and recently produced a podcast on the Everglades entitled "Bright Lit Place".

●04/28 - Land of Creation
Overtown Green Haven Project

●05/05 - Air of Creation

Taizé Worship Service, Miami Sound Choir Musical Guests

●05/12 - All of Creation
Psalm Celebration