

First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham  
Good Friday Reflection  
April 10, 2020  
The Rev. Bethany Peerbolte

In the week leading to Jesus' death things began to break around him.  
A jar of precious perfume was broken over Jesus' head and anointed him.  
The Passover bread was broken and blessed and shared among friends.  
A friendship broken as Judas kissed Jesus and turned him over to the soldiers.  
The adoration of the crowds broke down into cries for his crucifixion.  
The promise of loyalty broken three times before the rooster crows

These cracks left Jesus:  
Broken – in body and spirit,  
broken – and crying out in anguish,  
broken – and far from home,  
broken – and giving up his life,

In front of friends and family and strangers Jesus dies,  
The veil in the temple breaks.  
The hold of sin and death on the world breaks  
The power that oppresses breaks

from all life's broken places we remember this night the lengths Jesus was willing to go to make us whole again.

Let us join in prayer:  
God who created us suffers because of us  
God who died upon the cross suffers for us  
God who dwells with us suffers with us  
And in God's suffering we find hope

God, your suffering brings us salvation  
Without you the horrors of human suffering would be unbearable  
Your story of life, death and resurrection gives life meaning  
Your suffering frees us from our prisons

Because of your suffering a new world is breaking into ours  
May we live this day in the knowledge of your pain  
May we live this day in the assurance of your love  
May we live this day in the hope of the resurrection.  
Amen