

### Witnesses to Christ – Pontius Pilate

Pontius Pilate, a witness to Christ, consented to order Jesus' execution. Pilate may wash his hands and proclaim his own innocence in the death of Jesus, but Pilate is guilty. Pilate is caught between a rock and a hard place. Instead of doing what is right, Pilate has Jesus' flesh ripped, shredded, dressed in purple, and crowned with thorns. His hard heart is complicit in the death of Christ. While it may be an uncomfortable thought, Pilate's failures make us examine our own complicity in the evil of others. How have we deceived ourselves in proclaiming innocence? How have we been pressured into allowing evil to occur? Thanks be to God that our journey to the cross shows us Jesus' forgiveness.

## Welcome & Announcements

### Opening Song

*The Father's House*

#### Verse 1

Sometimes on this journey  
I get lost in my mistakes  
What looks to me like weakness  
Is a canvas for Your strength  
My story isn't over my story's just begun  
Failure won't define me  
'Cause that's what my Father does  
Failure won't define me  
'Cause that's what my Father does

#### Chorus

Oo lay your burdens down  
Oo here in the Father's house  
Check your shame at the door  
'Cause it ain't welcome anymore  
Oo you're in the Father's house

#### Verse 2

Arrival's not the endgame  
The journey's where You are  
You never wanted perfect  
You just wanted my heart  
And the story isn't over  
If the story isn't good  
Failure's never final  
When the Father's in the room

Failure's never final  
When the Father's in the room

**Chorus**

Oo lay your burdens down  
Oo here in the Father's house  
Check your shame at the door  
'Cause it ain't welcome anymore  
Oo you're in the Father's house

**Bridge**

Prodigals come home the helpless find hope  
Love is on the move  
When the Father's in the room  
Prison doors fling wide the dead come to life  
Love is on the move  
When the Father's in the room  
Miracles take place the cynical find faith  
Love is breaking through  
When the Father's in the room  
Jericho walls are quaking  
Strongholds now are shaking  
Love is breaking through  
When the Father's in the room  
Love is breaking through  
When the Father's in the room

**Chorus**

Oo lay your burdens down  
Oo here in the Father's house  
Check your shame at the door  
'Cause it ain't welcome anymore  
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**Chorus**

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# A Time for Prayer and a Prayer Confessing Our Sins

## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## Bible Readings

### Psalm 26:1-7

Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.

Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.

For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.

I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.

I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O Lord, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.

### 2 Corinthians 4:1-6

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## Song

*This I Believe (The Creed)*

### Verse 1

Our Father everlasting  
The all creating One  
God Almighty  
Through Your Holy Spirit  
Conceiving Christ the Son  
Jesus our Saviour

**Chorus 1**

I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in One  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

**Verse 2**

Our judge and our defender  
Suffered and crucified  
Forgiveness is in You  
Descended into darkness  
You rose in glorious life  
Forever seated high

**Chorus 1**

I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in One  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

**(Bridge)**

I believe in You  
I believe You rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

**(Bridge)**

I believe in You  
I believe You rose again  
I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord

**Chorus 2**

I believe in life eternal  
I believe in the virgin birth  
I believe in the saints' communion  
And in Your holy Church  
I believe in the resurrection

When Jesus comes again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

### **Chorus 3**

I believe in God our Father  
I believe in Christ the Son  
I believe in the Holy Spirit  
Our God is three in One  
I believe in the resurrection  
That we will rise again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus

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## **Gospel Reading**

### **John 19:1-16**

Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head and arrayed Him in a purple robe. They came up to Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck Him with their hands. Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in Him." So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" When the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law He ought to die because He has made Himself the Son of God." When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid. He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, "You will not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You and authority to crucify You?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered Me over to you has the greater sin." From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar." So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about the sixth hour. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" They cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." So he delivered Him over to them to be crucified.

## **Lenten Drama**

### **Today's Message**

Witnesses to Christ – Pontius Pilate

### **The Prayers**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Amen

## **Song**

*By His Wounds*

He was pierced for our transgressions  
He was crushed for our sins  
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him  
And by His Wounds, by His Wounds we are healed

He was pierced for our transgressions  
He was crushed for our sins  
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him  
And by His Wounds, by His Wounds we are healed

We are healed by Your Sacrifice  
In the life that You gave  
We are healed for You paid the price  
By Your Grace we are saved  
We are saved

He was pierced for our transgressions  
He was crushed for our sins  
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him  
And by His Wounds, by His Wounds we are healed

We are healed by Your Sacrifice  
In the life that You gave  
We are healed for You paid the price  
By Your Grace we are saved  
We are saved

He was pierced for our transgressions  
He was crushed for our sins  
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him  
And by His Wounds, by His Wounds we are healed

And by His Wounds, by His Wounds  
What can wash away my sin?  
Nothing but the the blood of Jesus

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## **Benediction**