



Kirkwood Baptist Church Presents

# SEVEN LAST WORDS

by Michael John Trotta

Good Friday, April 18, 2025

7:00pm

# Seven Last Words

By Michael John Trotta

Presented by the Sanctuary Choir and Guest Orchestra

with guest soloists

Leann Schuering, Soprano

Robert Mellon, Baritone

*In keeping with the solemnity of Good Friday, we invite you to gather in silence.*

*+ This symbol invites you to rise in body as you are able, or in spirit.*

Prelude

**O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus**

Duane Funderburk

Julia Matthews, piano  
and String Quartet

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Rev. Matt Vandagriff

*Before we continue in our worship, a brief pause shall  
occur for the instrumentalists to tune with the organ.*

+Call to Worship

Rev. Kyle Damron

This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son.

And this is why:

**so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him,  
anyone can have a whole and lasting life.**

On this day of remembrance and hope, we declare with joy:

God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger,  
telling the world how bad it was.

**He came to help, to put the world right again.**

Let us worship God.

+Hymn 212

**What Wondrous Love Is This**

WONDROUS LOVE

+Gospel Reading

John 11:1-3, 17-27

Allison Felter

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

Solo Meditation

**Pie Jesu**

Leann Schuering, soprano

Gabriel Fauré

*Pie Jesu Domine, Dona eis requiem, sempiternam requiem.*

Merciful Jesus, Grant them rest, everlasting rest.

+Gospel Reading

Mark 15:1-27

Hal Morse

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

## **I. Father, Forgive Them**

*And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."  
And they cast lots to divide his garments.  
– Luke 23:34*

*Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison  
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.  
Traditional Latin Text*

## **II. Today, You Will Be with Me**

*Then the criminal said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."  
Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."  
– Luke 23:42-43*

## **III. Behold Your Son**

Leann Schuering, soprano

*When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near,  
he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple,  
"Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.  
– John 19:26-27*

## **IV. I Thirst**

Robert Mellon, baritone

*After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the scripture), "I thirst."  
– John 19:28*

*And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying,  
"You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself!  
If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."  
– Matthew 27:40*

*So also the chief priests mocked him to one another with the scribes, saying,  
"He saved others; he cannot save himself. Let the Christ, the King of Israel,  
come down now from the cross. That we may see and believe."  
Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.  
– Mark 15:32*

*The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying,  
"If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"  
– Luke 23:37*

## **V. My God, Why Have You Abandoned Me?**

*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, la'ma sabach-tha'ni?"  
that is, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"  
– Matthew 27:46*

*And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "E'lo-I, E'lo-I, la'ma sabach-tha'ni?"  
which means, "My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?"  
– Mark 15:34*

## VI. Into Your Hands I Surrender My Soul

*The Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!"  
And having said this he breathed his last.  
– Luke 23:46*

*Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
– Matthew 6:10*

## VII. It Is Finished

*When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished;"  
and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.  
– John 19:30*

*It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour,  
while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.  
– Luke 23:44-45*

*And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom;  
and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened,  
and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised...  
When the centurion and those who were with him,  
keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place,  
they were filled with awe, and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"  
– Matthew 27:51-52, 54*

Silent Recessional

*Worshippers are invited to remain in silent prayer. Please depart in silence.*



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*On Mission*  
guide and learn  
all about KBC!

Whether you are worshipping with us online or in-person, welcome! We are happy you are here. If you are interested in becoming a member of Kirkwood Baptist Church, or if you have questions about the church, we encourage you to go to [www.kirkwoodbaptist.org](http://www.kirkwoodbaptist.org) where you might find some answers. **Additionally, you can find answers to questions or register for events by emailing [twright@kirkwoodbaptist.org](mailto:twright@kirkwoodbaptist.org) or calling 314-965-2349.**

A nursery is available for birth - Pre-K children and hearing devices are available upon request. Please see an usher for help.

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access online  
Giving



**We give thanks for those who helped lead us in worship tonight.**



Blessed with a voice that is lovely and rich” (St. Louis Post Dispatch), soprano Leann Schuering is in demand as a vocalist and voice teacher in the St. Louis region. She has performed solo engagements and leading roles with many of the area’s most prominent performing arts organizations, including the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, The Muny, the St. Louis Shakespeare Festival, Union Avenue Opera, St. Louis Art Song, The Kingsbury Ensemble, and others.

Outside of St. Louis, Leann has performed with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra, the Great Lakes Chamber Orchestra, the Adrian Symphony Orchestra, Opera MODO, LOFTRecital, and others. Leann is a two-time District Winner and Third Place Midwest Region Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She teaches Voice at Webster University and holds degrees from the University of Michigan, the University of Illinois, and the University of Chicago.



Robert Mellon is an award-winning baritone acclaimed by *Opera News* for his "excellent comic timing" and a "domineering baritone, gleaming like polished copper." In the 2023-2024 season he returned to Livermore Valley Opera as George Milton in ***Of Mice and Men***, then made two significant debuts - with Detroit Opera as Terry in ***Breaking the Waves*** and Florida Grand Opera as Tonio in ***Pagliacci*** where the South Florida Classical Review said, “As the deformed clown Tonio, Robert Mellon unfurled a large, voluminous baritone.” The busy artist returned to Opera Theatre of St. Louis for roles in ***La bohème*** and ***Galileo Galilei*** and offers his first Bartolo in ***Il barbiere di Siviglia*** with Indianapolis Opera. 2025 engagements include Dr. Malatesta in ***Don Pasquale*** and Sharpless in Anchorage Opera’s production of ***Madama Butterfly***.

Last season Robert made house debuts at Lyric Opera of Kansas City as Escamillo in ***Carmen***, Taddeo in ***L’Italiana in Algeri*** with Tulsa

Opera, and Opera Tampa as Tonio in ***Pagliacci***. He returned to Pensacola Opera to reprise the role of Marcello in ***La bohème***, sang Figaro in ***Le nozze di Figaro*** with Syracuse and Tri-Cities Operas and performed the role of Dandini in ***La Cenerentola*** with Opera Maine, where *Shark on Arts* said of his performance, “It was a treat to have Opera Maine favorite, Robert Mellon, back in town and owning every inch of Dandini. The comic business devised for his duet with Don Magnifico (involving an ever moving and unavailable chair) had the house in stitches.”

**Worship Leaders**

Deacon for the Week	Dale Hassler
Readers	Allison Felter, Hal Morse
Camera Operator & Videographer	Ian Blaylock
Sound Operator	Matt Forbis
Keyboards	Julia Matthews
Sanctuary Choir	

**Staff**

Senior Pastor	Rev. Matt Vandagriff
Associate Pastor, Music and Worship	Rev. Kyle Damron
Interim Education and Spiritual Formation	Krissi Vandagriff
Interim Youth Pastor	Aaron Huffman
Worship Care	Tracy Slezak

**Guest Orchestra**

Violin 1	Jessica Platt, Karen Schaberg, Carol Lebovic
Violin 2	Sarah Browdy, Eric Schaberg
Viola	Mitchell Stumpf, Jennifer Goodman
Cello	Kenneth Kulosa
Bass	Emily Pankratz
Flute	Wendy Hymes
Oboe	Eileen Burke
Trumpet	Mary Weber, Susan Slaughter
Horn	Nancy Schick
Harp	Caroline Robinson
Timpani	Paul Brumleve
Contractor	Dee Sparks