

Truly this man was God's son.

- Matthew 27:54



St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Welcome to St. Paul UCC, we are glad you are here!!

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, Welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

IN PERSON WORSHIP NOTES:

Bulletins, Offering Plates, and Masks are available on tables.

Listening devices are available in the Narthex/front entrance, for those who need them. Please return your device to an Usher following worship. Thank you!

Children's Easter Take Home Bags containing children's Holy Week bulletins and other activities are available on the tables. Thank you!

Restrooms are located in the Narthex/front entrance of the church and in the south hallway of the educational building.

WIFI Connection-connect via "St Paul – Guest"

Password: godlovesyou

The * indicates all who are able may stand

Good Friday Tenebrae
April 7, 2023

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Connie O'Neill

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Organist

WORDS OF GREETING: Tonight we begin with words from theologian and author Anne Lamott: "Hope begins in the dark, a stubborn hope that if you show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work. You don't give up." On this night of shadows and darkness, let us not give up our hope in Jesus Christ.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Gary Wehmeyer

Leader: We gather silently.

SILENCE

Leader: We carry the weight of Jesus' death as we worship on this holy night.

*OPENING HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross No. 261
(verses 1 & 4)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross 261

F C F $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{D7}{A}$ Gm $\frac{F}{C}$ C F

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were an

$\frac{Bb}{F}$ F $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F C F C F $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{D7}{A}$

Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 of - fering far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

Gm $\frac{F}{C}$ C F C7 Dm $\frac{Gm7}{Bb}$ $\frac{Am}{C}$ C7 F

count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

*CONFESSION OF SIN

Gary Wehmeyer

Leader: We confess our sins before God and one another.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: God of mercy,

People: We admit to you, to ourselves, and to this community that we have caused harm to others through our actions and through our failure to act. Give us the humility to accept our failings and to make things right where we can. Forgive us and help us to forgive ourselves. Amen.

Leader: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In that love, God forgives you all your sin for the sake of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: We offer to God our thanks and praise.

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

No. 734

734

Glory Be to the Father

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men." Above the vocal line, various chords are indicated: Eb, Bb7sus, Bb7, Eb, Bb, Bb, Eb, Bb, Eb6, Bb, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Eb, Eb, Bb, Bb7, Bb7, Eb, Eb, Bb, Eb, G, Fm7, Eb, Gm, Bb7, Eb.

WORDS: *Gloria Patri*, 2nd c.
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex (1813-1858)

GREATOREX
Irregular

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Leader: Let us pray. O God of this Quiet Night, we gather tonight to pray for the church, our community, and all those in need.

SILENCE

Leader: Ah, holy Jesus, this is the day we have been dreading. Silence the fears of our hearts and hold us close to your wounded side, that we never lose sight of how much you care for us. Beloved Lord,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Ah, holy Jesus, we have knowingly participated in the evil and brokenness of this world. In unfathomable love you gave your life to heal that brokenness. Keep us ever mindful of what you have endured out of love for us. Beloved Lord,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Ah, holy Jesus, we have knowingly made choices that have harmed your creation. Draw us back to your very first commandment: that we may be faithful stewards of all you have made. Beloved Lord,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Ah, holy Jesus, give us the humility to see where we have turned away from the suffering of others. Strengthen us to show up in solidarity with victims of injustice, oppression, and state violence. Beloved Lord,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Ah, holy Jesus, so many of God's children suffer from afflictions of body, mind, or spirit. Uplift them with your healing grace. Beloved Lord,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Ah, holy Jesus, strip us of our pride, that we might reach out in love to all the world's people, knowing that you died for each and every one of us, without exception. Beloved Lord,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We lift up these prayers to you, holy Jesus, as we pray together as you taught us... **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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but**

deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE MEANING OF THIS NIGHT: Good Friday marks the death of Jesus Christ. It's called "good" because of what Jesus' death means for the redemption of the world. Tenebrae is the Latin term for "shadows." It is a service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights. On this night, we have lit twelve candles: representing the twelve disciples. We also have a thirteenth candle: the Christ Candle—shining on this night of darkness, shadows, and death.

READINGS AND EXTINGUISHING OF LIGHTS

Shadow of Betrayal: Matthew 26:20-25

June Oaks

When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve;²¹ and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?"²³ He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me."²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

Shadow of Desertion: Matthew 26:31-35

June Oaks

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'³² But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."³³ Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you."³⁴ Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."³⁵ Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Agony of the Soul: Luke 22:39-44

Diane Gilberg

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." ⁴¹ Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴² "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." [⁴³ Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴ In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.]

Unshared Vigil: Mark 14:32-41

Diane Gilberg

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴ And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." ³⁵ And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶ He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸ Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." ³⁹ And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰ And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹ He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

HYMN (seated)

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

No. 254

(verses 1 & 3)

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley 254

1 Je - sus walked this lone - some val - ley, he had to
 2 Je - sus prayed for his dis - ci - ples; he prayed a -
 3 Je - sus died on Cal - vary's moun - tain; he died a -
 4 Je - sus rose from death's dark pris - on; he lives a -

walk it by him - self; O, no - bod - y else could walk it
 lone for you and me. O, no - bod - y else could bear such
 lone for you and me. O, no - bod - y else could die for
 gain for you and me. O, no - bod - y else could bring us

for him, he had to walk it by him - self.
 sor - row; he prayed a - lone for you and me.
 sin - ners; he had to die for you and me.
 vic - tory; he is a - live to set us free.

“Father the hour is come”: John 17:1-6

Amy Felver

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. ⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

“That they may all be one”: John 17:15-22

Amy Felver

I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. 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.

Arrest in the Garden: John 18:1-5

Caleb Felver

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.” Jesus replied, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

Shadow of the Cross: Mark 15:16-20

Caleb Felver

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort.¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.¹⁸ And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!”¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Carrying the Cross: Luke 23:26-32

John Gilberg

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus.²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him.²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.²⁹ For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

“Father, forgive them”: Luke 23:34-43

John Gilberg

³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing.³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine,³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save

yourself!”³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

HYMN (seated)

The Old Rugged Cross

No. 260
(verses 1 & 4)

The Old Rugged Cross

B \flat B \flat dim7 B \flat E \flat *Adim* E \flat C

1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross, the
 2 O that old rug - ged cross, so de - spised by the world, has a
 3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine, a
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true, its

F7 $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F7 B \flat B \flat dim7 B \flat

em - blem of suf - fer - ing and shame; and I love that old cross, where the
 won - drous at - trac - tion for me; for the dear Lamb of God left his
 won - drous beau - ty I see; for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus
 shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; then he'll call me some day to my

E \flat *Adim* E \flat C F7 $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ F7 B \flat *Refrain* F F7

dear - est and best for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
 glo - ry a - bove to bear it to dark Cal - va - ry. So I'll cher - ish the
 suf - fer - ed and died to par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
 home far a - way, where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

B \flat B \flat dim7 $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat B \flat

old rug - ged cross, till my tro - phies at last I lay down; I will
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

clinging to the old rug-ged cross,
 and exchanging it some day for a crown.
 cross, the old rug-ged cross,

Shadow of Death: John 19:25b-30

Morgan Felver

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.

Shadow of the Tomb: Matthew 27:51-66

Morgan Felver

At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!" ⁵⁵ Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee. ⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph,

who was also a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. ⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." ⁶⁶ So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The Word was God: John 1:1-5, 10-14

Greg Felver

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

BENEDICTION: May Jesus Christ, who was obedient to death, even death on a cross, guide, encourage and protect you. Amen.

You are invited to leave in silence. Blessings to you on this holy night.