



Good Friday

First United Methodist Church • April 7, 2023 • Noon

Prelude *Adagio*

J.S. Bach

Velda Graham Bell, organ

Greeting

Pastor Jeanine Alexander

Today is Good Friday. It is a day that proclaims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the Cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is good because God was drawing the world to God's self in Christ. We call it "good" because we look backward at the crucifixion through the lens of Easter.

* Hymn *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

UM Hymnal #298

Prayer

All: God our Savior, you gave us your beloved Son, Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth. Lift our hearts and bring us together beneath the cross, ready to leave behind our sin and fear, confident in the grace that brings us into your abiding love, for you will prevail and death itself will die. In the name of the Crucified One, whose victory is life. Amen.

The first candle is extinguished.

* Hymn *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

The Faith We Sing #2200

Prayer

One: Lord, as we extinguish the candles one by one and see your cross rise,

All: we recall those who did their jobs on that Friday long ago.

One: We remember Pilate, who with clever words kept a false and fragile peace. We remember a soldier who, with rope in one hand and a nail in the other, followed his orders and affixed you to the tree.

All: But we also remember Peter, we remember ourselves, and the job we failed to do.

One: We recall our denial made amidst cockcrows and salty tears of timidity and remorse.

All: Lord, we know again this Friday that we did not stand with you.

One: Yet you did your job, which also was your passion and your name: Jesus, “God saves.”

All: You bore the nails and the insults. You spoke truth and bled out.

One: You broke the curtain open and faced the worst of the powers’ might. So, Lord, here we are again on a darkening Friday of this year’s Holy Week, with another chance to do our job,

All: and stand by you. Lord, by your Spirit, make us able to do so. Amen.

The second candle is extinguished.

* Hymn *O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

The Faith We Sing #2200

Reading **John 18:1-14**

The third candle is extinguished.

A Time of Silence

Reading **John 18:15-27**

The fourth candle is extinguished.

Reading **John 18:28-38a**

The fifth candle is extinguished.

A Time of Silence

Reading **John 18:38b – 19:16a**

One: After Pilate had said this, he went to the religious authorities again and told them, “I find no crime in him. But you have a custom that I should release one man for you at the Passover; will you have me release for you the King of the Jews?”

All: They cried out again, “Not this man, but Barabbas!”

One: Now, Barabbas was a robber. Then Pilate took Jesus and scourged him. And the soldiers plaited 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 crime in him.” So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and his purple robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!”

All: When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, “Crucify him, crucify him!”

One: Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no crime in him.”

All: The religious authorities answered him, “We have a law and by that law he ought to die, because he has made himself the Son of God.”

One: When Pilate heard these words, he was the more afraid. He entered the headquarters again and said to Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave no answer. Pilate therefore said to him, “You will not speak to me? Do you know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?”

All: Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore, he who delivered me to you has the greater sin.”

One: Upon this, Pilate sought to release him, but the religious authorities cried out,

All: “If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend; every one who makes himself a king sets himself against Caesar.”

One: When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called the Pavement, and in Hebrew “Gabbatha.” Now, it was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. He said to the religious authorities, “Behold your King!”

All: They cried out, “Away with him, away with him, crucify him!”

One: Pilate said to them, “Shall I crucify your King?”

All: The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” They handed him over to them to be crucified.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

Musical Reflection *He Never Said a Mumblin’ Word*
Alix Craft, soloist

arr. Moses Hogan

Reading **John 19:16b-30**

The seventh candle is extinguished.

Holy Communion

Following communion, you may stay, ponder the passion pictures, and pray as long as you wish. Please leave in silence.

* *Please stand as you are comfortable*



Easter services:

*Easter Contemporary Sunrise Service: a short service on Sunday, April 9 at 7am (in person only):
Come early and watch the sun rise, and then come inside to the Sanctuary for coffee and worship.*

***Easter Worship:** Sunday, April 9 at 10am in person, livestreamed and on YouTube any time. This service includes an Easter orchestra, bells, choir and organ. The congregation will be invited to join the Sanctuary Choir in singing the Hallelujah Chorus. Coffee, doughnuts and fruit will be available from 9-9:45am.*

***Easter activities for children!** Meet at 9:15 on Easter morning for an Easter egg hunt and playing in the bounce house. There is no Sunday School this morning; kids may remain in worship with their families and fidget bags will be available. Nursery care will be available.*