

GOOD *Friday*



He was wounded for our transgressions,
he was bruised for our iniquities: the
chastisement of our peace was upon him.

Isaiah 53:5

Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ
Good Friday Service
April 18th, 2025 @ 12:00 PM

PRELUDE

“Day of Sorrow”

Verdi

Meditation

“Good Friday: day of the cross, day of suffering, day of hope, day of abandonment, day of victory, day of mourning, day of joy, day of endings, day of beginnings. . . . I closed my eyes and could see his sacred body. . . . I saw the immense suffering of humanity during the centuries: people killing each other; people dying from starvation and epidemics; people driven from their homes; people sleeping on the streets of large cities; people clinging to each other in desperation; people flagellated, tortured, burned and mutilated; people alone in locked flats, in prison dungeons, in labor camps; people craving a gentle word, a friendly letter, a consoling embrace, people . . . all crying out with an anguished voice, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?’. . . with my minds’ eye I saw large crowds of isolate, agonizing individuals walking away from the cross together, bound by the love they had seen with their own eyes and touched with their own lips. The cross of horror became the cross of hope, the tortured body became the body that gives new life; the gaping wound became the source of forgiveness, healing and reconciliation.” **Show Me the Way: Daily Lenten Readings** by Henri Nouwen

OPENING PRAYER *(Based on Psalm 51)*

**All: Almighty God,
We all, like sheep, have gone astray.
We have all turned to our own way.
We have sinned and have been the cause
of Christ’s suffering. Please forgive us, we pray.
Remove the sins that distance us from you
and from those we love and care about.
Remove our selfishness, our pride, our envy,
and our greed.
Remove from us our thoughtless acts
and words that hurt one another.
Remove from us the tendency to hurt others
out of revenge and anger.
Forgive us please.
Create in us a clean heart, O Lord.
And renew in us a right spirit. Amen.**

Hymn

“The Old Rugged Cross”

#195 vs. 1-2.

1. Betrayal

Reading: Matthew 26:6-26

While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.” Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So, they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.”

Extinguish the candle.

2. Denial

Reading: Psalm 31:9-14

Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief. My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning; my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak. Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors and an object of dread to my closest friends—those who see me on the street flee from me. I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery. For I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side!” They conspire against me and plot to take my life. But I trust in you Lord, I say, “You are my God.”

Extinguish the candle.

Hymn *“Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?”* #229 v.1-2

3. Aloneness

Reading: Mark 14:32-41

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.

“My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death,” he said to them. “Stay here and keep watch.” Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. “Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. **“Simon,”** he said to Peter, **“are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”** Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him. Returning the third time, he said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners.”

Extinguish the candle.

4. Accusation

Reading: Mark 14:55-59

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: **“We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’** Yet even then their testimony did not agree.”

Reading Mark 15:1-5:

Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So, they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate. “You have said so,” Jesus replied. The chief priests accused him of many things. So again Pilate asked him, **“Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”** **But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.**

Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did. “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him.

But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead. **“What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?”** Pilate asked them. “Crucify him!” they shouted. “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.”

Extinguish the candle.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“In the Shadow of the Cross”

Lippencott

5. Suffering

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-5

Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. **He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.** Surely, he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Extinguish the candle.

Hymn

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

#224

6. Crucifixion

Reading: Matthew 27:31-43

After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.

When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the king of the Jews. Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, **“You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!”** In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

Extinguish the candle.

Hymn *“The Old Rugged Cross”* #195 vs. 3-4.

7. Death

Reading Luke 23:44-46

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Extinguish the last candle.

Closing Prayer

One: Let us pray!

**All: Where there is sorrow,
Let us offer comfort and love.
Where there is despair,
Let us sow seeds of hope.
Where there is suffering,
Let us work together to bring healing and hope. Amen.**

Video **The Last Painting** by Igniter Media

Please, leave in silence.

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**WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU JOINED US  
FOR WORSHIP TODAY!**

## CALLED TO SERVE

- **LITURGIST:** Jeff Hershey
- **READERS:** We Thank all of our readers who volunteered for tonight's service.
- **USHERS AND GREETERS:** Members of Consistory



*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here at Shiloh UCC, where God is still speaking."*

## THE CHURCH STAFF

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