

Community Good Friday Worship Service

March 29, 2024 - 12:00pm and 12:30pm

Thank you for attending this Community Good Friday Worship Service. There are two one-half hour services, and they are different. You are invited to remain for both sections, or feel free to come and go at the end of the first section. Your free will offering, left in the plates at the door, will go to the East Side Soup Kitchen here in Saginaw. A free sack lunch is available for anyone who would like one, even if you're not going back to work!



12:00pm Prelude: “Two Gethsemane Meditations: 1) Darkness; 2) Prayer” by Phil Lehenbauer

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amy Terhune

***Call to Worship** (based on Isaiah 53:5-8)

Rev. Amy Terhune

L: He was wounded for our transgressions, and crushed for our sinfulness.

P: On Him was the punishment that makes us whole, and by His bruises we are healed. The Lord laid on Him the vices of us all.

L: We are like sheep who have gone astray and turned to our own way.

P: And He became a lamb led to slaughter, silent before His assailants.

L: By the perversion of justice, He was condemned.

P: Could any have imagined His future?

***Opening Hymn UMH #286:** “O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

1) O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
How pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

2) What thou, my Lord, hast suffered was all for sinners' gain;
Mine, mine was the transgression, but thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior! 'Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor, vouchsafe to me thy grace.

3) What language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend,
For this thy dying sorrow, thy pity without end?
O make me thine forever; and should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to thee.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 22:1-11 (read responsively)

U.M. Hymnal pg. 752-753
Rev. Carol McCleary

Unison Prayer of Confession:

Rev. Carol McCleary

God of Passion, on this day of betrayal and death, we remember those times we have been part of the crowd seeking our best interest over what is right and good.

God of Fidelity, on this day of fear and denial, we remember those times when we choose the path of safety over loyalty to your Way.

God of Constant Presence, on this day of despair and loss, we remember the ways we have wandered away from your presence, only to complain that we are abandoned. God of the Cross, for all the ways we have missed the mark, all the ways we have come up short, all the ways we have given in to sin, forgive us. Through your Grace bring us back into relationship. Give us the fortitude to trust in you; buoy our hope when all seems a dead end; and lead us on paths of holiness for the sake of your son, who died that we may live. Amen.

[adapted from Rev. Gord; <https://worshipofferings.blogspot.com>.]

Time of Silent Meditation

Words of Assurance

Rev. Carol McCleary

One: Even in the face of betrayal and rebellion, even in the face of death and denial, even in the face of fear and despair, God's Grace knows no bounds. We are indeed forgiven, called back into relationship, and set back on the path that leads to the Realm of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Choral Anthem:

"O Come and Mourn"

by Loonis McGlohon

Scripture Reading:

Luke 23:32-43

Rev. Amy Terhune

³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And the soldiers cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ 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, 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 Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Meditation

"LAST WORDS"

Rev. Amy Terhune

***Hymn UMH #285: "To Mock Your Reign"**

- 1) To mock your reign, O dearest Lord, they made a crown of thorns;
Set you with taunts along that road from which no one returns.
They could not know, as we do now, how glorious is that crown;
That thorns would flower upon your brow, your sorrows heal our own.

- 2) In mock acclaim, O gracious Lord, they snatched a purple cloak;
Your passion turned, for all they cared, into a soldier's joke.
They could not know, as we do now, that though we merit blame,
You will your robe of mercy throw around our naked shame.
- 3) A sceptered reed, O patient Lord, they thrust into your hand,
And acted out their grim charade to its appointed end.
They could not know, as we do now, though empires rise and fall,
Your kingdom shall not cease to grow till love embraces all.

A Word About Today's Offering

Rev. Carol McCleary

12:30pm Organ Interlude: "Ah, Dearest Jesus"

by Johann Cruger; arr. Wilbur Held

Worshippers may enter and exit at this time



Unison Prayer:

Rev. Carol McCleary

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that He might draw the whole world to Himself. Grant that we, who are saved by his death, may follow faithfully in taking up our crosses, that we may know the richness of a life lived in service and sacrifice in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Hymn UMH #294: "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed" (vs. 1-3, 5)**

- 1) Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my Sovereign die?
Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?
- 2) Was it for crimes that I have done, He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown! And love beyond degree!
- 3) Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut its glories in,
When God, the mighty maker, died for his own creature's sin.
- 5) But all my tears can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe.
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Carol McCleary

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. Amen.

Choral Anthem:

"He Became A Lamb"

by Mary Kay Beall

Scripture Reading:

Mark 15:33-39

Rev. Ruth Estell

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the centurion who stood facing him saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Meditation

"THE CURTAIN WAS TORN"

Rev. Ruth Estell

*** Hymn UMH #298:** *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"*

- 1) When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2) Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3) See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4) Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

***Benediction**

Rev. Ruth Estell

***Postlude:** *"The Royal Banners Forward Go"*

Sarum Plainsong; arr. Wilbur Held

*** You are invited to stand if you are able****PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:**

Rev. Carol McCleary – Michigan Avenue Baptist Church
Rev. Ruth Estell – Second Presbyterian Church
Rev. Amy Terhune – First United Methodist Church
Bryan Latimer, Organist – First United Methodist Church
Rod Bieber, Choir Director – First United Methodist Church

Thank-you to all the choir members from these churches who participated. We appreciate all of you!

CELEBRATE EASTER IN OUR COMMUNITY

Michigan Avenue Baptist Church

203 S. Michigan Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48602

(989) 793-8555 / <https://mabcsaginaw.org/>

Easter Worship – Sunday 3/31: 10:45am

Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Road, Saginaw, MI 48603

(989) 792-1023 / <https://www.spcsaginaw.org/>

Easter Worship – Sunday 3/31: 9:00am

First United Methodist Church

4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638

(989) 799-0131 / <http://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/>

Easter Coffee Hour: 20 minutes before/after worship

Easter Worship – Sunday 3/31: 10:00am

THE SEVEN LAST UTTERANCES OF JESUS

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” – Luke 23:34

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.” – Luke 23:43

“My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?” – Matthew 27:46

Jesus said to his mother: “Woman, here is your son.”

Then he said to the disciple: “Here is your mother.” – John 19:26-27

“I Thirst” – John 19:28

“It Is finished.” – John 19:30

“Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” – Luke 23:46