

Community Good Friday Worship Service

April 18, 2025 - 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: “*Beneath The Cross of Jesus*”

by Frederick C. Maker; arr. Susanna Keeney

Words of Welcome

Rev. Amy Terhune

***Call to Worship**

Rev. Amy Terhune

[by Rev Gord, <http://worshipofferings.blogspot.ca>.]

One: From the busy-ness of our lives we have come here on a day that is different.

All: In the midst of the world which holds the promise of spring and new life, we have come to share a story of betrayal and execution.

One: Come and hear the tale, come and share the tragedy, come and embrace the darkness.
Let us pray together:

All: God of Light, God of Shadow, in our time together today, keep us aware of your presence in the darkness, and keep the fire of hope alive in our hearts.

One: This we pray in the name of the man from Nazareth, the one who lived with a great Passion for your Way,

All: The one whose death is nigh, whose life we remember today with solemn prayer and devotion to follow.

***Opening Hymn UMH #289:** “*Ah, Holy Jesus*”

- 1) Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected, O most afflicted!
- 2) Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee!
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee; I crucified thee.
- 3) Lo, the Good Shepherd for the sheep is offered;
The slave hath sinned, and the Son hath suffered.
For our atonement, while we nothing heeded, God interceded.
- 4) For me, kind Jesus, was thy incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion, for my salvation.

** Please stand if you are able*

- 5) Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,
I do adore thee, and will ever praise thee,
Think on thy pity and thy love unswerving, not my deserving.

Litany of Confession:

Rev. Amy Terhune

[written by Rev Erica Wimber Avena; as adapted from *Letters and Papers from Prison: After Ten Years: An Account at the Turn of the Year 1942-1943*, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, translated by Barbara and Martin Rumscheidt, pp. 28.]

- One: We can truly share only in a limited measure in the suffering of others.
All: We are not Christ, but if we want to be Christians it means that we are to take part in Christ's greatness of heart,
One: in the responsible action that in freedom seizes the hour and faces the danger,
All: and in the true sympathy that springs forth not from fear but from Christ's freeing and redeeming love for all who suffer.
One: Inactive waiting and dully looking on – these are not Christian responses.
All: Christians are called to action and sympathy, not through their own firsthand experiences but by the immediate experience of others, for whose sake Christ suffered.
One: It is infinitely easier to suffer in obedience to a human command than in the freedom of one's very own responsible action.
All: It is infinitely easier to suffer in community with others than in solitude.
One: It is infinitely easier to suffer publicly and with honor, than in the shadow and in dishonor.
All: It is infinitely easier to suffer through putting one's bodily life at stake than to suffer through the spirit.
One: Yet Christ suffered:
All: In freedom, in solitude, in shadow and in dishonor, in body and in spirit.
One: Since then, many Christians have suffered with him.
All: Suffering Christ, we confess that we have chosen ease over the cost of discipleship. We have chosen apathy over action. We have turned away from injustice, all the while knowing that your hands and feet are our own. Forgive us when we desert, deny, or betray. Lord, have mercy on us.

Time of Silent Meditation

Words of Assurance

Rev. Amy Terhune

- One: Hear the Good News: God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ... For by grace, you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.
All: Thanks be to God for the gift of grace! Amen.

(Ephesians 2:4-5, 8)

Choral Anthem: "That Day on Calvary"

by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 53:3-9

Rev. Julie Bailey

³ He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering, acquainted with infirmity, one from whom others hide their faces. He was despised, and we held him of no account. ⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases, yet we accounted him stricken; struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter or a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹ They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Meditation

WHAT YOU WON'T DO FOR LOVE

Rev. Julie Bailey

***Hymn (music attached next page):** *“Our God Reigns”*

Chorus: Our God reigns, our God reigns, our God reigns, our God reigns!

- 1) He had no stately form, He had no majesty
That we should be drawn to Him.
He was despised, and we took no account of Him
Now He reigns with the Most High. [Chorus]
- 2) It was our sin and guilt that bruised and wounded Him.
It was our sin that brought Him down.
When we like sheep had gone astray, our Shepherd came;
On His shoulders, bore our shame. [Chorus]
- 3) Meek as a lamb that's led out to the slaughter house,
Dumb as a sheep before it's shearer
His life ran down upon the ground like pouring rain,
That we might be born again. [Chorus]

A Word About Today's Offering

Rev. Amy Terhune

12:30pm Organ Interlude: *“Go to Dark Gethsemane”*

by Richard Redhead; arr. Wilbur Held

Worshippers may enter and exit at this time



OUR GOD REIGNS by Leonard E. Smith

© 1974, 1978 by New Jerusalem Music

With a lilt $E\flat$ F $E\flat/B\flat$ $B\flat$

1. He had no state - ly form, He had no ma - je - sty.
2. It was our sin and guilt that bruised and wound - ed Him.
3. Meek as a lamb that's led out to the slaugh - ter house.

$Gm7$ $Cm7$ F $B\flat$ $B\flat Maj7$

that we should be _____ drawn to Him.
It was our sin _____ that brough Him down.
Dumb as a sheep _____ be - fore its shearer.

$B\flat7$ $E\flat$ F $E\flat/B\flat$ $B\flat$

He was de - spised, and we took no ac - count of Him.
When we like sheep had gone a - stray, our Shep - herd came,
His life ran down up - on the ground like pour - ing rain,

$Gm7$ $Cm7$ F $E\flat/F$ $B\flat$ $Cm7$ $C\sharp dim7$

Now He reigns _____ with the Most High.
On His shoul - ders bore our shame.
(that) we might be _____ born a - gain.

B \flat /D B \flat Fm/D E \flat F7

our God reigns our God

B \flat Cm7 C \sharp dim7 B \flat /D B \flat Fm/D E \flat

reigns our God reigns

F7 E \flat /F B \flat

our God reigns!

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



A Responsive Prayer:

Rev. Brad Terhune

[Adapted from William Loader, <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/02/prayer-we-come-to-remember.html>.]

One: O God, all our sin, all our hatred, all our violence, all our apathy, all our convenient neglect –

All: It all came together in that dark hour when they snuffed out the light of your goodness,

One: When they crucified your Son, our Lord.

All: We come to remember... and repent.

One: O God, all your love, all your compassion, all your goodness, all your forgiveness–

All: It all came together in that life and that dying, your undying and unending love,

One: When they crucified you Son, our Lord.

All: We come to remember... and respond.

One: O God, all of Jesus' story, all of human history, all our story, repeats itself;

All; Where hate meets love, where injustice meets justice, where despair meets hope, where death meets life.

One: We dare to believe we were there when they crucified your Son, our Lord, and that this is none other than the way also to truth and life.

All: We come to remember... and recommit.

*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.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Rev. Brad Terhune

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: “The Accursed Tree”

music by Henry Hart Milman
words by Maxcine Woodbridge Posegate

Scripture Reading: Luke 23:32-46

Rev. Ruth Estell

³² Two other criminals were also 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 they 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 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 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 in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise." ⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

Meditation

"STICKS AND STONES"

Rev. Ruth Estell

***Closing 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.

***Benediction**

Rev. Ruth Estell

***Postlude:** *"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"*

Traditional Spiritual; arr. Hugh S. Livingston



PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE:

Rev. Julie Bailey – Ascension Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Rev. Ruth Estell – Second Presbyterian Church
Rev. Amy Terhune – First United Methodist Church
Rev. Brad Terhune – First United Methodist Church
Bryan Latimer, Organist – First United Methodist Church
Rod Bieber, Choir Director – First United Methodist Church
Judy Gerken, Pam Mott, Carla Piazza-Wistehuff, Kathy Winkowski – Ushers
Isabelle Terhune – Soundboard
Karissa Schultz – Nursery

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

CELEBRATE EASTER IN OUR COMMUNITY

Ascension Lutheran Church

8695 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48609
(989) 781-2170 / <https://www.ascensionlc.org/>
Easter Worship – Sunday 4/20: 8:00am and 10:30am

Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Road, Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 792-1023 / <https://www.spcsaginaw.org/>
Easter Worship – Sunday 4/20: 9:00am

First United Methodist Church

4790 Gratiot Road, Saginaw, MI 48638
(989) 799-0131 / <http://www.firstumcsaginaw.org/>
Easter Breakfast – Sunday 4/20: 9:00am
Easter Worship – Sunday 4/20: 10:00am