

GOOD FRIDAY



Good Friday, April 2, 2021
7:30 p.m.



THE SOLEMN LITURGY FOR GOOD FRIDAY
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 2, 2021

Good Friday

The Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday is centered on the Crucifixion of Jesus. This liturgy was shaped largely during the fourth and fifth centuries and falls into four basic parts:

- The Reading of the Prophecy
- The Passion According to John
- The Solemn Prayers
- The Prayerful meditation on the cross.

The service is essentially a meditative service of remembrance. “While the mood is solemn, it is also one of hope, looking forward to the great Easter celebration.” (*The Book of Worship, United Church of Christ*)

PRELUDE

Herzlich tut mich verlangen, BWV 727

J.S. Bach
(1685–1750)

*As the Introit is sung, please stand, as you are able, as a procession into the Nave is made.
 A Crucifer carries a wooden cross.*

ENTRANCE INTROIT

Surely, He hath borne our griefs

Karl Heinrich Graun
(1704–1759)

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.
 –Isaiah 53:4

OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

Leader: Blessed be our God.
People: For ever and ever. Amen.

INVOCATION

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us pray.
P: Almighty God, we ask you to look with mercy on your family for whom our Savior Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, to be given over to the hands of sinners, and to suffer death on the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 52:13—53:12

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 52.

See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we

held him of no account.

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. 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. 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. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 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. 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.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper. Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

L: The Word of God for the people of God.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence

Please stand.

HYMN

Journey to Gethsemane

Redhead 76

1. Jour - ney to Geth - se - ma - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's power;
2. Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3. Cal - vary's mourn - ful moun - tain climb, there, a - dor - ing at His feet,
4. Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb, where they laid His breath - less clay:

Your Re - deem - er's con - flict see, Watch with Him one bit - ter hour;
O the worm - wood and the gall! O the pangs His soul sus - tained;
Mark the mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com - plete;
All is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en Him a - way?

Turn not from His griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - fering, shame, or loss, learn from Christ to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear Him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Please be seated.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO JOHN

Heinrich Schütz
(1585–1672)

*The opening and closing choruses are sung in German.
The remainder of the Passion is sung in English.*

Opening Chorus:

*Das Leiden unsers Herren Jesu Christi,
wie uns das beschreibet
der heilige evangeliste Johannes.*

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ
as we find it written
in Holy Gospel of John.

Closing Chorus:

*O hilf, Christe, Gottes Sohn,
durch dein bitter Leiden,
daß wir dir stets untertan,
all Untugend meiden,
deinen Tod und sein Ursach,
fruchtbarlich bedenken,
dafür wiewohl arm und schwach
dir Dankopfer schenken.*

Help us, O Christ, thou Son of God
through thy bitter passion
Seeing thy humility
May we shun transgression.
Knowing how thou came to die
may we learn to suffer.
May we now, though poor and weak,
prayer and praises offer.

MEDITATION

“Love Unto Death”

Rev. Ahrens

Ninth in the Lenten sermon series, “The Journey Back to Love”

A time of reflection follows.

OFFERTORY

MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Corzine

During the singing of the hymn, an offering will be taken. All monies collected will be given to **Amethyst House**, a long-term, gender-competent addiction and trauma treatment leader for homeless women and their families. To give online, please go to www.first-church.org/give.aspx. Thank you for your generosity.

HYMN

My song is love unknown

Love Unknown



1. My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to me,
2. Christ came from heav - en's throne Sal - va - tion to be - stow,
3. Some - times they strew His way, And His sweet prais - es sing,
4. They rise, and needs will have My dear Lord made a - way;
5. Here might I stay and sing, No sto - ry so di - vine:



Love to the love - less shown That they might love - ly be.
But peo - ple scorned and none The longed - for Christ would know.
Re - sound - ing all the way Ho - san - nas to their King.
A mur - der - er they save, The Prince of life they slay.
Nev - er was love, dear King, Nev - er was grief like Thine.



O who am I That for my sake My Lord should take Frail flesh, and die?
But O my Friend, My Friend in - deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
Then “Cru - ci - fy!” Is all their breath, And for His death They thirst and cry.
Yet stead-fast He To suf - fering goes, That He His foes From thence might free.
This is my Friend, In whose sweet praise I all my days Could glad - ly spend.

Please stand, as you are able.

THE SOLEMN PRAYERS

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us pray, sisters and brothers, for the holy church of God throughout the world that God may guide it and gather it together so that we may worship God in peace and tranquility.

Silent prayer.

L: Almighty and eternal God, you have shown your glory to all nations in Jesus Christ. Guide the work of the church. Help it to persevere in faith, to proclaim your name, and to offer salvation, justice, and peace to people everywhere. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

P: Amen.

Rev. Corzine

L: Let us pray for our pastors and other ordained and commissioned ministers, for all servants of the church, and for all the people of God.

Silent prayer.

L: Almighty and eternal God, your Spirit guides the church and makes it holy. Strengthen and uphold our pastors and our leaders; keep them in health and safety for the good of the church, and help each of us to do faithfully the work to which you have called us. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

P: Amen.

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us pray for those preparing for baptism and confirmation, that God may make them responsive to God's love and give them new life in Jesus Christ.

Silent prayer.

L: Almighty and eternal God, you continually bless the church with new members. Increase the faith and understanding of those preparing for baptism and confirmation. Give them a new birth as your children. Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

P: Amen.

Rev. Corzine

L: Let us pray for those who do not believe, that the light of the Holy Spirit may show them the way of salvation and faith.

Silent prayer.

L: Almighty and eternal God, enable those who do not yet know the love of Christ to receive the good news of his love for all people. Help us, your people, to grow in love for one another, to grasp more fully the mystery of your Godhead, and so to become more perfect witnesses of your love in the sight of all people. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

P: Amen.

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us pray for those who do not believe in God, that they may find the God who lifts us into the fullness of life.

Silent prayer.

L: Almighty and eternal God, you created humanity so that all might long to know you and have peace in you. Grant that, in spite of the hurtful things that stand in their way, all may recognize in the lives of Christians the tokens of your love and mercy and gladly acknowledge you as the one true God of us all. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

P: Amen.

Rev. Corzine

L: Let us pray for those who serve in public office, that God may guide their minds and hearts, so that all of us may live in true peace and freedom.

Silent prayer.

L: Almighty and eternal God, you are the champion of the poor and oppressed. In your goodness, watch over those in authority so that people everywhere may enjoy justice, peace, freedom, and a share in the goodness of your creation. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

P: Amen.

Rev. Ahrens

L: Let us pray that the almighty and merciful God may heal the sick, comfort the dying, give safety to travelers, free those unjustly deprived of liberty, and rid the world of falsehood, hunger, and disease.

Silent prayer.

L: Almighty and eternal God, you give strength to the weary and new courage to those who have lost heart. Hear the prayers of all who call on you in any trouble that they may have the joy of receiving your help in their need. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

P: Amen.

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Ahrens

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

MEDITATION ON THE CROSS

L: Behold the wood of the cross, on which hung the salvation of the world.

P: Come, let us worship the Christ, the child of God.

MOTET

*Crux fidelis, inter omnes,
Arbor una nobilis:
Nulla silva talem profert,
Fronde, flore germine:
Dulce lignum, dulces clavos,
Dulce pondus sustinet. Amen.*

Crux fidelis

Faithful cross, above all other,
One and only noble tree:
None in foliage, none in blossom,
None in fruit thy peers may be:
Sweetest wood and sweetest iron,
Sweetest weight is hung on thee. Amen.
—Words attributed to Venantius Fortunatus, (c. 530–609)

John IV of Portugal

Silence.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Corzine

L: We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

P: By your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

HYMN

Were you there?

Were You There

Sung unaccompanied.

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)
 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were you there?)
 3. Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were you there?)
 4. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? Oh!
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? (Were you there?)
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? (Were you there?)
 Were you there when they pierced Him in the side? (Were you there?)
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? (Were you there?)

*A bell is rung 33 times, once for each year of Jesus' earthly life.
We then depart in silence.*

The holy vigil of the great three days (Triduum) continues until the time of the Resurrection.

LEADERSHIP

The Reverend Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens, *Senior Minister*

The Reverend Emily Krause Corzine, *Associate Minister*

Mark S. Williams, *Crucifer*

Kevin Jones, *Minister of Music*

The Chamber Choir of First Church

Emily Noël, Jamie Blair, Kevin Cubick, Harris Ipock, Kevin Jones

EASTER DAY, APRIL 4

7 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service (Facebook and YouTube)

11 a.m. – Festival Holy Communion Service (Facebook and YouTube)

www.first-church.org/watchourservices.aspx

Welcome Statement

You are welcomed, affirmed, and loved here; our faith informs us that you are a child of a loving God. Your characteristics and gifts will enrich our congregation. In this community, you will be celebrated, embraced, and honored, no matter how you identify or how your identity may evolve. Wherever you are on your faith journey, we invite you to join us in our diverse yet united experience.

First Church is a Faith Community

† Called together by God, the Creator and Sustainer of life, to worship, pray and serve;
† Led by Jesus Christ, our Teacher and Savior, to learn the faith and welcome all God's children;
† Empowered by the Holy Spirit to witness to God's love and justice between ourselves, and throughout the world.

Open and Affirming Statement

We, the members of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Columbus, Ohio, welcome and affirm all. We believe we are all created in God's image and called to love our neighbors as Jesus loves us. We believe we are many members, but one body in Christ, called to unite all people in God's love. We are a community seeking God's presence and love in our lives. We seek to unite persons of all ages, races, nationalities, ethnicities, sexual orientations, sexes, gender identities and expressions, family structures, mental, intellectual and physical conditions, economic circumstances, political, theological and faith backgrounds. Together in our diversity, and being empowered and directed by the Holy Spirit, we will "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

—Adopted September 8, 2002 by the congregation

Revisions adopted January 27, 2019 by the congregation



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OF CHRIST
God is still speaking,

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Scripture readings are the New Revised Standard Version.



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