

GOOD FRIDAY



Friday, April 10, 2020
7:30 p.m.

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 Passion
- The Contemplation of the words from the cross
- 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 Solemn Liturgy for Good Friday

INTRODUCTION

The Rev. Dr. Timothy C. Ahrens

* OPENING SENTENCES

The Rev. Emily Krause Corzine

Leader: Blessed be God,

People: for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD ACCORDING TO JOHN

Tomàs Luis de Victoria

Kevin Jones, *Evangelist*

Christopher Humbert, *Jesus*

Elizabeth McConnaughey, *Mary Magdalene*

Brad Findell

Kevin Cubick, *Peter/Pilate*

The text is taken from John 18 —19:30

MEDITATION

“Lay Down Your Life”

Rev. Ahrens

A time of reflection follows.

OFFERTORY

MISSION INVITATION

Rev. Corzine

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. Checks should be made out to First Congregational Church, noting "Amethyst House" in the memo line. You may give electronically by clicking on the QR code below, or at www.first-church.org/give.aspx. Thank you for your generosity.



* 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 is the author and goal of our existence.

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.**

Silence.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ahrens

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

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

*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*

Kevin Jones, *Minister of Music*

The Chamber Choir of First Church

Elizabeth McConnaughey, Brad Findell, Kevin Cubick, Christopher Humbert

EASTER DAY, APRIL 12

11 a.m. - Easter Resurrection Celebration (YouTube and Facebook)

CHRIST YESTERDAY & TODAY

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.

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.

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.



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