



Good Friday

March 2024 + 7 PM

Good Friday is the second of the Great Three Days - the *Triduum* - consisting of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Our worship on this day is a continuation of the service we began yesterday evening. The invitation of this day is to draw near to Jesus' cross and to join him - as closely as we are willing and able - in his experience of suffering, abandonment, and death.

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The United Methodist Church of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, in our relationship with God, with each other, and with all creation, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

Gathering Music *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Douglas E. Wagner

+ Call to Worship

Leader: Here is the man!

Right Side: *Jesus, accused of being a criminal.*

Left Side: *Jesus, who threatens the religious establishment.*

Leader: Here is your King!

Right Side: *The ruler of a Kingdom*

that is not from this world.

Left Side: *The ruler who threatens the power of empire.*

Leader: Here is the man!

Right Side: *Who witnesses to the truth.*

Left Side: *Who gives no answer.*

Leader: Here is your King!

Right Side: *Jesus, son of Mary.*

Left Side: *Jesus, son of God.*

ALL: *Jesus, the One we have gathered to worship.*

Silent Listening: *What sorrows - mine, someone else's, or the world's - do I bring with me into this space? What pain am I willing to share with Jesus today?*

+ Hymn

Were You There (verse 1)

UMH 288

First Lesson - Mark 15.1-20 (NRSVUE)

15 As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." ³Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸So the crowd came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom. ⁹Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Pilate spoke to them again, "Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³They shouted back, "Crucify him!" ¹⁴Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!" ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them, and after flogging Jesus he handed him over to be crucified.

¹⁶Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after

twisting some thorns into a crown they put it on him. ¹⁸ And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹ They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

Silent Listening

+ Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

UMH 626

Second Lesson - Mark 15.21-32 (NRSVUE)

²¹ They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. ²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷ And with him they crucified two rebels, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

Silent Listening

+ Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

UMH 286

Third Lesson - Mark 15.33-41 (NRSVUE)

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 God's Son!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who followed him when he was in Galilee and ministered to him, and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

Silent Listening

Message - *The Pain of the Cross*

Dr. Stephen J. Knisely

Concluding Prayer

O Holy God,
the hosannas have died away,
the palm branches have turned brittle.

Now, today, there is only this –
each of us,
all of us,
sitting in the darkness,

the hymns of lament in the air,
the mumblings of our own feeble confession,
on this Friday
 which we tremble to call Good.

What is good about Good Friday?

What is good about the innocent one nailed to a cross?

What is good about the darkness of war that persists today?

What is good about our devastation of the planet?

 ... about people living in poverty?

 ... about the fog of addiction, depression,
 disease, and despair?

What is good about the crushing weight

 of hunger, racism, scapegoating, apathy?

No, there is nothing good and desirable in these things.

Yet you, O God, are Good.

When suffering reigns, yours is the first heart to break.

When despair lurks about,

 we remember that you were there first,
peering into the abyss and crying out, incredibly:
“Father, forgive them.”

When we feel forsaken, we remember that in your last moments,
you cared for your mother and your beloved disciple,
binding them to one another as a new family.

When we feel overcome by guilt,

 we remember that you spoke grace to a thief:
“Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Your love for us is just that boundless,
 and ever-present,
 and Good.

Thank you.

What else can we say here,
in the dimness,
in the darkness,
but thank you.

Amen.

*Written by MaryAnn McKibben Dana, pastor of Idylwood Presbyterian Church in Falls Church, VA.
Posted on LiturgyLink, <http://www.liturgylink.net/2012/04/04/good-friday-prayer-the-hosannas-have-died-away/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/03/a-prayer-for-good-friday.html>.*

+ Hymn

Were You There (verse 2)

UMH 288

***Our worship continues tomorrow, Holy Saturday
at 7 PM here in the Sanctuary
as we continue this sacred story.***



Join Us on Holy Saturday . . .
March 30, 7 PM, Sanctuary and online

**. . . and as We Celebrate
the Risen Christ on
Easter Sunday, March 31!**

Sunrise Worship
7 AM, The Chapel

Traditional Worship
9 AM, Sanctuary and online

Modern Worship
11 AM, Wesley Hall

All are welcome.

All worship spaces will be Easter lily-free.

Online Services at www.facebook.com/umcberea/live.

Bulletins and more information at www.umcb.org.

Join us in worship, this week and every week:

Sunday at 9AM in-person in the Sanctuary and online
(www.facebook.com/umcberea/live)

Sunday at 11AM in-person in Wesley Hall

Monday—Friday at 9AM (Morning Prayer) via Zoom
(1-888-788-0099, meeting id: 518 014 483; passcode: 170)