



Good Friday

*What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest friend;
For this, your dying sorrow, your pity without end?
May I be yours forever; and though my days be few,
O Savior, let me never outlive my love for you!*

St. John's United Church of Christ
500 W. Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446
April 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm

Order of Worship

We gather in silence.

*You are invited to rise in body or spirit when indicated by an *asterisk and speak the words in bold.*

WELCOME AND OPENING SENTENCES

As day turns to night, and all we see becomes shadowed,

We enter into this holy evening.

This night, we are reminded of God's love, of God's courage, and of God's sacrifice.

We are reminded of the depth of these things, and hope for a faith as deep.

Let us be present to the story, mindful of how we live, and open to God's presence

As we worship.

Come, Holy Spirit. Descend upon us, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN #224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

PSALM 22:1-5

Read by Carolyn Rivet

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**We have wandered to where you would not have us go:
to places of greed, of hate, of cruelty.**

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy. Guide us, O Lord, as we pray:

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE

Even as he approaches his death, Christ cries out into the world that we are forgiven. Let us accept this gift with humility and gratitude. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

ISAIAH 53:3-5

Read by Ginny Wilkinson

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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Mein teurer Heiland (from St. John Passion).....J.S. Bach

*Mein teurer Heiland, lass dich fragen
da du nun mehr an's Kreuz geschlagen
und selbst gesagt: es ist vollbracht!
Bin ich vom Sterben freigemacht?
Kann ich durch deine Pein und Sterben,
das Himmelreich ererben?
Ist aller Welt Erloesung da?
Du kannst vor Schmerzen zwar nichts sagen,
doch neigst du das Haupt und sprichst,
Stillschweigend: Ja!*

*My dearest Savior, give me answer
Since Thou this hour the cross hath taken
and since Thou sayest: it is fulfilled!
Am I from death forever free?
Am I since Thou in woe hast ended,
to heaven's realm commended?
Is all the world redeemed this day?
Thou canst for pain indeed not answer,
yet bowest Thou Thy head and say,
in silence: Yea!*

THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN (from "The Message")

JOHN 18:1-14 - Seized in the Garden at Night

Read by Gerry Linderman

Jesus, having prayed this prayer, left with his disciples and crossed over the brook Kidron at a place where there was a garden. He and his disciples entered it. Judas, his betrayer, knew the place because Jesus and his disciples went there often. So Judas led the way to the garden, and the Roman soldiers and police sent by the high priests and Pharisees followed. They arrived there with lanterns and torches and swords. Jesus, knowing by now everything that was imploding on him, went out and met them. He said, "Who are you after?"

They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene."

He said, "That's me." The soldiers recoiled, totally taken aback. Judas, his betrayer, stood out like a sore thumb. Jesus asked again, "Who are you after?"

They answered, "Jesus the Nazarene."

"I told you," said Jesus, "that's me. I'm the one. So if it's me you're after, let these others go." (This validated the words in his prayer, "I didn't lose one of those you gave.")

Just then Simon Peter, who was carrying a sword, pulled it from its sheath and struck the Chief Priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. Malchus was the servant's name. Jesus ordered Peter, "Put back your sword. Do you think for a minute I'm not going to drink this cup the Father gave me?"

Then the Roman soldiers under their commander, joined by the police, seized Jesus and tied him up.

*HYMN RESPONSE #219 Journey to Gethsemane (Stanzas 1-3)

Stanza 2 may be sung in harmony.

JOHN 18:14B-17 - Peter Denies Jesus

Read by Luchi Fernando

They took Jesus first to Annas, father-in-law of Caiaphas. Caiaphas was the Chief Priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it was to their advantage that one man die for the people. Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. That other disciple was known to the Chief Priest, and so he went in with Jesus to the Chief Priest's courtyard. Peter had to stay outside. Then the other disciple went out, spoke to the doorkeeper, and got Peter in.

The young woman who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, "Aren't you one of this man's disciples?" He said, "No, I'm not."

*HYMN RESPONSE #218 Ah, Holy Jesus

JOHN 18:28, 33-40 - The King of the Jews

Read by Pat Reiker

They led Jesus then from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace... Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. He said, "Are you the 'King of the Jews'?" Jesus answered, "Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you this about me?" Pilate said, "Do I look like a Jew? Your people and your high priests turned you over to me. What did you do?"

"My kingdom," said Jesus, "doesn't consist of what you see around you. If it did, my followers would fight so that I wouldn't be handed over to the Jews. But I'm not that kind of king, not the world's kind of king." Then Pilate said, "So, are you a king or not?"

Jesus answered, "You tell me. Because I am King, I was born and entered the world so that I could witness to the truth. Everyone who cares for truth, who has any feeling for the truth, recognizes my voice." Pilate said, "What is truth?"

Then he went back out to the Jews and told them, "I find nothing wrong in this man. It's your custom that I pardon one prisoner at Passover. Do you want me to pardon the 'King of the Jews'?"

They shouted back, "Not this one, but Barabbas!" Barabbas was a freedom fighter.

PIANO RESPONSE

What Wondrous Love Is This.....Arr. Vicki Collinsworth

JOHN 19:1-19 - *The Thorn Crown of the King*

Read by Roger Scott

So Pilate took Jesus and had him whipped. The soldiers, having braided a crown from thorns, set it on his head, threw a purple robe over him, and approached him with, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they greeted him with slaps in the face. Pilate went back out again and said to them, "I present him to you, but I want you to know that I do not find him guilty of any crime." Just then Jesus came out wearing the thorn crown and purple robe.

Pilate announced, "Here he is: the Man." When the high priests and police saw him, they shouted in a frenzy, "Crucify! Crucify!" Pilate told them, "You take him. You crucify him. I find nothing wrong with him."

The Jews answered, "We have a law, and by that law he must die because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this, he became even more scared. He went back into the palace and said to Jesus, "Where did you come from?" Jesus gave no answer.

Pilate said, "You won't talk? Don't you know that I have the authority to pardon you, and the authority to—crucify you?"

Jesus said, "You haven't a shred of authority over me except what has been given you from heaven. That's why the one who betrayed me to you has committed a far greater fault." At this, Pilate tried his best to pardon him, but the Jews shouted him down: "If you pardon this man, you're no friend of Caesar's. Anyone setting himself up as 'king' defies Caesar." When Pilate heard those words, he led Jesus outside. He sat down at the judgment seat in the area designated Stone Court (in Hebrew, *Gabbatha*). It was the preparation day for Passover. The hour was noon. Pilate said to the Jews, "Here is your king."

They shouted back, "Kill him! Kill him! Crucify him!" Pilate said, "I am to crucify your king?" The high priests answered, "We have no king except Caesar." Pilate caved in to their demand. He turned Jesus over to be crucified.

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, 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.

HYMN RESPONSE #226 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded #226
The hymn may be sung in harmony.

JOHN 19:19B, 23-30 - *The Crucifixion*

Read by Dan Panachyda

They took Jesus away. Carrying his cross, Jesus went out to the place called Skull Hill (the name in Hebrew is *Golgotha*), where they crucified him, and with him two others, one on each side, Jesus in the middle. Pilate wrote a sign and had it placed on the cross. It read: JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

When they crucified him, the Roman soldiers took his clothes and divided them up four ways, to each soldier a fourth. But his robe was seamless, a single piece of weaving, so they said to each other, "Let's not tear it up. Let's throw dice to see who gets it." This confirmed the Scripture that said, "They divided up my clothes among them and threw dice for my coat." (The soldiers validated the Scriptures!)

While the soldiers were looking after themselves, Jesus' mother, his aunt, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her. He said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that moment the disciple accepted her as his own mother.

Jesus, seeing that everything had been completed so that the Scripture record might also be complete, then said, "I'm thirsty."

A jug of sour wine was standing by. Someone put a sponge soaked with the wine on a javelin and lifted it to his mouth. After he took the wine, Jesus said, "It's done . . . complete." Bowing his head, he offered up his spirit.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Lamb of God.....German Chorale, arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross didst suffer,

Patient still and lowly, thyself to scorn didst offer;

Our sins by thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken:

Have mercy on us, O Jesu!

-Nicolaus Decius, tr. Arthur T. Russell

STREPITUS

*After the strepitus (loud noise symbolizing the closing of the tomb), all are to depart in silence.
Our service continues on Easter morning.*

You are invited to Easter Sunday worship by attending the services below.

7:00 am at White's Road Park (if inclement weather, meets in sanctuary)

10:15 am in the Sanctuary

Offering

Tonight's order of worship does not contain a formal offering collection. You are invited to place your offering in a plate at the doors as you depart or by scanning the QR code.



Worship Leaders

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan, Senior Pastor

Rev. Tom Adil, Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson, Minister of Music

Chancel Choir

Bill Cagney, Baritone

Carolyn Rivet, Passion Narrator

Ginny Wilkinson, Passion Narrator

Gerry Linderman, Passion Narrator

Luchi Fernando, Passion Narrator

Pat Reiker, Passion Narrator

Roger Scott, Passion Narrator

Dan Panachyda, Passion Narrator

Carolyn Rivet, Candlelight Extinguisher

Gwen Rivet, Candlelight Extinguisher

St. John's United Church of Christ

500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446

www.st-johns-ucc.org ~ 215.855.5489 ~ office@st-johns-ucc.org

Rev. Dr. Linda Noonan (she/her), M.Div., PhD, Senior Pastor

Rev. Tom Adil (he/him), M. Div., Support Pastor

Andrew Paulson (he/him), M.M., M.A., Minister of Music

Abbie Lampe (she/her), Minister of Music for Children & Youth

Kay Peebles (she/her), Church Office Manager

Grace Marchione (she/her), Communications

Bill Bergey, Custodian

Deborah Dayton, Council President