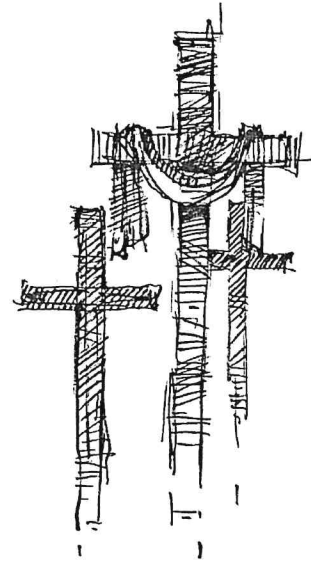


***Good Friday***  
***April 3, 2026***  
***6:00 p.m.***

## **OUR LORD'S**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*There's a Place for You Here*



*As you view and participate in this worship please note that **bolded text** invites ALL to voice.*

Gathering Music "Ah, Holy Jesus"

by Johann Crüger

Graceful Engagement

### **Think on This for Tonight**

*As United Methodists, we draw on many images and understandings of atonement, all of which point to the God who desires to be in relationship with humanity. Tonight, we continue our journey of preparation.*

### **GATHERING TOGETHER**

Settling In

Prelude "He Was Despised"

by George Frideric Handel

\*Call to Worship

Followers of Jesus, tonight we arrive at Pilate's palace, hearing the cries of "Crucify! Crucify" from the crowds outside.

**We come to witness Jesus, sentenced to death by religious leaders, government officials, and the crowd.**

Tonight, we arrive at Golgotha, at the foot of the cross where only a few of Jesus' followers dared to gather to bear witness.

**We come to witness Jesus, crucified for teaching love, speaking truth, and forgiving sins.**

Tonight, we arrive at the tomb where Jesus' friends laid his body, a final act of love.

**We come to witness Jesus, his death a testament to all that sin and evil will do to resist the power of Love to transform the world.**

Tonight, we have arrived at Good Friday to remember, once again, the story of Jesus crucified.

**We come to witness Jesus, who, even in death, shows us the magnitude of God's steadfast love that never fails.**

\*Opening Prayer

**Gracious God, we remember with love and tears the torture and death of Your Son, Jesus. We believe that he was the rejected One, the despised One, the Man of sorrows bearing our griefs and wounded for the brokenness in humanity. We come to worship in deep personal repentance and recommit ourselves to recognize all crosses, ease all suffering and pain, and speak out against injustice in every time and place. Amen.**

**LEARNING TOGETHER**

Reading of Scripture John 18:1-19:42 NRSV

Response

The word of God for ALL of us, God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon "Letting the Story Speak"

**RESPONDING TOGETHER**

Response Hymn "Were You There" *all verses*

UMH 288

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer ALL Together

UMH 895

Invitation to Giving Action

\*Doxology

TUNE: REDHEAD, 77.77.77

**Praise the Source who gives us life.  
Praise to Christ, who shares our strife.  
Praise the Spirit, who sustains,  
bearing us through grief and pain.  
To the holy Trinity glory, praise, and honor be.**

\*Blessing Prayer

**Suffering Redeemer, we bring these offerings with trembling hands, aware that they are mere tokens before the weight of the cross. And yet, even here - in sorrow and silence - You receive our gifts and turn them into healing. Take what we offer: our treasure, our time, and our trembling faith. Use it to tell the story that still saves, to serve the ones You love, and to bear hope even in the shadow of death. We give, not to explain the mystery, but to live into it - until the story is told in full and grace has the final word. Let it be so.**

\*Responsive Sending Forth with Blessing

May God bless you as you go from this place to reflect on the quiet of the tomb, the apparent end of the journey.

**We wait and watch, for God's life-giving action to dawn. Sunday's comin'!**

\*Unison Prayer of Supplication

**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.**

\*Closing Hymn "Jesus, Remember Me" *repeating*

UMH 488

Notes:

**Need hearing assistance? Hearing assist devices are available. Visit our tech room and someone will help you.**

Lectionary readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 *"The suffering servant"*; Psalm 22 *"Why have you forsaken me?"*; Hebrews 10:16-25 *"The way to God is opened"*; John 18:1-19:42 *"The passion and death of Jesus"*



**Thank you for worshipping with us at Our Lord's!**

Scan this QR code to contribute a gift to support our church and its ministries. Explore more of our website by clicking the "Our Lord's" header at the top of the page. There you'll find past worship services, information regarding our various ministries, and much more!

**Highlighting, with gratitude, these servant leaders for today...**

Wendi Haubert, Izzy Veit, Dave Smith, Rebecca Landgraf, Kathy Depies, Decker Henninger, Amy & Sam Veit, Sue Schulkers, Karen Haubert, Don Mains

CBA: Wendi Haubert/finance@ourlordsumc.org  
Office Administrator: Tabitha Manning/office@ourlordsumc.org  
Pastor: Kelly Liebenstein/pastorkelly@ourlordsumc.org

\*Find us on Facebook and watch our live-streamed Sunday services at [www.facebook.com/OurLordsUMC/](http://www.facebook.com/OurLordsUMC/)

\*Visit us on our website at [www.ourlordsumc.org](http://www.ourlordsumc.org)

Worship resource: **Ministry Matters**, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>, **Discipleship Ministries**, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>, Doxology from "Praising God" by Ruth C. Duck/Patricia Wilson-Kastner

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*Our Lord's United Methodist Church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Potawatomi, Sioux (Ochethi Sakowin), Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, and Peoria people's.*

*"love boldly, serve joyfully, lead courageously"*