

# Good Friday



St. John's United Church of Christ  
*Rooted in Love*

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4.18.25

# Good Friday    April 18, 2025

## Prelude

### \*The Call to Worship      Psalm 22:1-5

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.**

### First Reading – John 18:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the Kidron Valley to a place where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place because Jesus often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" 5 They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. 6 When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they stepped back and fell to the ground. 7 Again he asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth.", 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these people go." 9 This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, "I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me." 10 Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. 11 Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

### \* Hymn

*"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me "*

**#214 Vs 1 & 3**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy wounded side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure,  
save from wrath and make me pure.

Nothing in my hand I bring,  
simply to the cross I cling;  
naked, come to thee for dress,  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly,  
wash me, Savior, or I die.

**\*Gathering Prayer** (*In Unison*)

**Incarnational God, you are with us. You are always with us. We claim to search for you, yet your presence is steadfast. Help strengthen and encourage us to be with you and one another in forsaken spaces, in the midst of our tears, anger, fears, and uncertainty. Let trust well up in us, fortify us, and embolden us to be vessels of praise and liberation in the world. Amen**

**Second Reading – John 18:12-18**

12 So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. 13 First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. 14 Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people. 15 Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, 16 but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. 17 The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." 18 Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

**Special Music**

*"Where You There?"*

**Meher Ahora**

**Third Reading – John 18:19-24**

19 Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. 20 Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. 21 Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." 22 When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" 23 Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" 24 Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

**\* Song**

*"Go to Dark Gethsemane"*

**#196**

Go to dark Gethsemane,  
all who feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see,  
watch with him one bitter hour;  
turn not from his griefs away;  
learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall;  
view the Lord of life arraigned,  
O the wormwood and the gall!  
O the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;  
learn of him to bear the cross.

**Fourth Reading – John 18:25-27**

25 Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." 26 One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" 27 Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

**Invitation to Give Generously**

*(Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John's UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including in church, online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)*

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)**

Holy One, receive our gifts as a grateful response and contribution to your love manifested in the world. Amen.

**Fifth Reading – John 18:28-38a**

28 Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to Pilate's headquarters. It was early in the morning. They themselves did not enter the headquarters, so as to avoid ritual defilement and to be able to eat the Passover. 29 So Pilate

went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" 30 They answered, "If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you." 31 Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law." The Jews replied, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death." 32 (This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die.) 33 Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" 35 Pilate replied, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom belonged to this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." 37 Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." 38 Pilate asked him, "What is truth?"

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer (*In Unison*)**

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

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

## **Sixth Reading – John 18:38b-19:16**

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, "I find no case against him. 39 But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" 40 They shouted in reply, "Not this man but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a rebel. 19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. 2 And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. 3 They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. 4 Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." 5 So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold the man!" 6 When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him." 7 The Jews

answered him, "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God." 8 Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. 9 He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Pilate therefore said to him, "Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?" 11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin." 12 From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar." 13 When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" 15 They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

### WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

\* Hymn

*"Go to Dark Gethsemane"*

#196

**Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;  
there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time,  
God's own sacrifice complete:  
"It is finished!" hear him cry;  
learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

### **Seventh Reading – John 19:17-30**

So, they took Jesus, 17 and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. 18 There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. 19 Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." 20 Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. 21 Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" 22 Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." 23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one

piece from the top. 24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots." 25 And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." 27 Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. 28 After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

## Benediction

Preaching:	<b>Pastor Katie Jo Bielke</b>
Dir of Music Ministry:	<b>Ruth Notch</b>
Technology:	<b>Steve Hawkinson</b>
Soloist:	<b>Meher Ahora</b>



## **Prayer Stations**

**“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing”**

**Luke 23:34**

Is there something you wish to bring to God to ask forgiveness for or something you need to forgive? Write or draw it in the sand.

Ask forgiveness. Then pass your hand through the sand, obliterating the words or images as a symbol of receiving God's forgiveness.

**“I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise”**

**Luke 23:43**

God loves you! Take a sweet and as you eat it say thank you to God for God's love and all the good things he gives us.

**“I am thirsty.” John 19:28**

Pour a glass of water and as you do so watch and listen to the water flowing.

Spend some time looking at the water you have poured.

Thank God for his refreshing Spirit.

Take a drink and ask God to fill you afresh.

**“It is finished.” John 19:30**

Lighting a candle is a prayer. It acts as a sign of God's presence among us, a light in the dark. It symbolizes our commitment: the candle only produces its light by burning itself and shows the sacrificial nature of love.

When joined by candles lit by others, they become a visible sign of our combined prayers.

Light a candle and place it on the cross.

Thank God for Jesus, for shining as a light for us.

**At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split. Matthew 27:51**

What tears at your heart?

Tear the fabric and let the sound be your prayer.

Drap the fabric on the cross.