



St Peter and St Paul United Church of Christ

Good Friday ~ 7 p.m.

March 29, 2024

If you are visiting us for the first time, welcome!  
Thank you for joining us, we're happy you are here.

Please make sure to sign in in the Narthex and include your name and email so we can keep you updated on upcoming events and special worship services.

\*Please stand if you are able and comfortable

**Congregation reads text in bold print**

*In our liturgy, A: is all our voices. L: is the liturgist's voice P: is the Pastor's voice*

The Christ Candle and the Six Altar Candles are lit

Welcome and Announcements

*Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

Prayer Concerns are Lifted

*Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Matthew Westermeyer, Liturgist*

L: Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday.

**A: Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death.**

L: Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world, as Christ's death offers life to all.

**A: We gather in solemn devotion now, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life.**

### **INVOCATION**

**A: Almighty God, look with loving mercy on your family, for whom our Lord 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, forever and ever.**

**Amen.**

## The Passion and Death of Christ

### First of the Shadows

**John 18:1-12 Jesus is Arrested**

*Extinguish the first candle*

*Silence.*

### Second of the Shadows

**John 18:13-18; 25-27 Peter denies Jesus**

*Extinguish the second candle*

### A Prayer of Reconciliation for Good Friday

P: Ever-present God, on this Good Friday night,  
our whole world is engulfed in shadows  
as we remember the story of Jesus' death.

**A: We confess that we want to push the fast-forward button on this familiar story  
because it hurts so much.**

P: It hurts to think of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

It hurts to imagine Jesus abandoned and suffering on the cross  
with only a faithful few watching him breathe his last breath.

It hurts to watch your light overtaken by the shadows of the world.

**A: But we must find our place in this crucifixion story and feel the pain that is there:  
The pain of the world,  
of faithless decisions; of betrayal; of injustice.**

P: Jesus entered that pain out of faithfulness to you and to us,  
to witness to the Truth that is Justice, Wholeness and Love.

**A: We confess, we are afraid to enter this pain with Jesus.**

**Strengthen us with your courage;**

**offer glimpses of hope in the shadows of death;**

**let us know you are present with us here in this moment of pain;**

**now as always.**

### **Assurance of Blessing**

P: Beloved followers of Jesus, it is okay to feel hurt and uncomfortable as you enter into this story and imagine your place in it.

Know that God meets you in the story,  
with comfort as well as challenge; with courage as well as love.

**Hymn:**

*“Were You There” Verse 1*

**No. 198**

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (were you there)

### **Third of the Shadows**

**John 18: 28-38**

**Trial of Jesus before Pilate**

*Extinguish the third candle*

*Silence.*

### **Fourth of the Shadows**

**John 18: 38-19: 16a**

**Jesus is Condemned to Death**

*Extinguish the fourth candle*

**Hymn:**

*“Were You There” Verse 2*

**No. 198**

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (were you there)

### **Fifth of the Shadows**

**John 19:16b-27**

**From the Cross, Jesus Calls Forth Beloved Community**

*Extinguish the fifth candle.*

\*Invitation to the Offering

L: All good gifts come from you, Creator God, and from these riches we bring this offering. Help us to use it for the furtherance of your purpose in this place, and for the benefit of those in need. Aid us to be generous givers, both of our money and our lives, that we might make a difference in this town. We ask this through your son, our Savior Jesus Christ who gave all that he was that we might know life in all its fullness. Amen.

**Congregational Prayer**

**A: Ever Present God,**

**we are amazed that Jesus, nearing his death, reached out to comfort and empower those dearest to him.**

**At the foot of his cross, he called his mother and his beloved disciple into a new community.**

**Give us the grace and courage to join them there,**

**welcoming all who struggle and grieve**

**into this new covenant of love and grace.**

*Message*

*“When Life Hurts”*

*Pastor Teri Lynn Stackhouse*

**Sixth of the Shadows**

**John 19: 28-30**

**Jesus Dies**

*Extinguish the sixth candle*

*Silence.*

Time for Silent Prayer ~ Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**A: 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication of our Hearts**

P: Divine Cross of Love, even when the workings of the world are harsh, you are present.

**A: Even when death and grief rattle our souls, you pour goodness and mercy upon us.**

May we live into the command of Christ: love one another as Christ loved us.

**A: Through our actions, our faith comes alive and our neighbors experience Divine love in new ways.**

P: As we go into Holy Saturday, and prepare for Easter Sunday, we carry Christ with us as we go. Amen.

### **Seventh of the Shadows**

**John 19: 38-42**

**Jesus is Laid in the Tomb**

*Silence.*

**Hymn:**

***“Were You There” Verse 3***

**No. 198**

3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? (were you there)

The Christ Candle is Put Out

P: Jesus is dead...It is finished.

**A: Jesus is dead...It is finished.**

*Extinguish the seventh candle*

*Silence*

*The Loud Sound of Tenebrae.*

**Prayerful Recess**

We leave quietly.



LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

# Easter Sunday Breakfast

MARCH 31, 2024 | 8:30 AM

PLEASE SIGN UP AT  
COMMUNICATION CORNER



*Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Peter and St. Paul United Church of Christ!*

3001 Queen City Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45238

Current Office Hours: W, Th, & Fri. 10am – 2pm (W & Th remotely) ~ Sat 9-11am + 513-661-3745

In case of pastoral care emergency, please call the office, Deb Boland,  
or Pastor Teri Lynn at 513-250-6460

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