



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
30 N. CLINTON ST.
IOWA CITY, IA 52245
319-337-4301

WORSHIP FOR MARCH 29, 2024
GOOD FRIDAY

“It is immensely easier to suffer in obedience to a human command than to suffer in the freedom of one’s own responsible deed. It is immensely easier to suffer with others than to suffer alone. It is immensely easier to suffer openly and honorably, than apart and in shame. It is immensely easier to suffer through commitment of the physical life than in the spirit. Christ suffered in freedom, alone, apart and in shame, in body and spirit, and since then many Christians have so suffered with him.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE *“Epitaphe”* by Louis Vierne
Bill Dickinson, organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Blessed be the name of the Lord our God,
 who redeems us from sin and death.

For us and for our salvation
Christ became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Surely, he has borne our grief
 and carried our sorrow;
and yet we esteemed him stricken,
 smitten by God, and afflicted.

PSALM 22

PRAYER

THE SONG OF HEZEKIAH (Isaiah 38:10-20)

In my despair I said,
“In the noonday of my life I must depart;
my unspent years are summoned to the portals of death.”

And I said,

**“No more shall I see the Lord in the land of the living,
 never more look on my kind among dwellers on earth.**

My house is pulled down and I am uncovered,
as when a shepherd strikes his tent.

**My life is rolled up like a bolt of cloth,
 the threads cut off from the loom.**

Between sunrise and sunset my life is brought to an end;
I cower and hope for the dawn.

**Like a lion he has crushed all my bones;
 like a swallow or thrush I utter plaintive cries;
 I mourn like a dove.**

My weary eyes look up to you;
Lord, be my refuge in my affliction.”

**But what can I say? for he has spoken;
 it is he who has done this.**

Slow and halting are my steps all my days,
because of the bitterness of my spirit.

**O Lord, I recounted all these things to you
 and you rescued me;
 when entreated, you restored my life.**

I know now that my bitterness was for my good,

for you held me back from the pit of destruction,
you cast all my sins behind you.

**The grave does not thank you nor death give you praise;
nor do those at the brink of the grave hang on your promises.**

It is the living, O Lord,
the living who give you thanks as I do this day;
and parents speak of your faithfulness to their children.

**You, Lord, are my Savior,
I will praise you with stringed instruments
all the days of my life, in the house of the Lord.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 27: 27-31, 45

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Andante” from Symphony No. 5 (The Reformation)
by Felix Mendelssohn
Diane Dahl-McCoy, violin

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 23:32-35, 38-43

*HYMN 98 “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”

**O sacred head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, Thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss till now was Thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call Thee mine.**

**What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But Thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Savior!
'Tis I deserve Thy place;
Look on me with Thy favor,
Vouchsafe to me Thy grace.**

**What language shall I borrow
To thank Thee, dearest friend,
For this Thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me Thine forever;
And should I fainting be,**

**Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to Thee.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 15:34-39

REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE LESSON Mark 15: 40-47

*HYMN 92 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

**Beneath the cross of Jesus
I fain would take my stand,
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From the burning of the noontide heat,
And the burden of the day.**

**Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eye at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffered there for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love
And my unworthiness.**

PRAYER

POSTLUDE “Grave” (from a voluntary) by John Alcock

You are welcome to stay as long as you wish for individual prayer and meditation. There is no benediction. The congregation is asked to leave quietly.

Our worship today concludes with the joyful celebration of the resurrection on Easter Sunday, March 31. At 7:30 a.m., the youth of the Confirmation Class will lead our Sunrise Service. Our Easter breakfast will be held in Rockwood Hall beginning around 8:00. At 10:15 we will hold our festival Easter service with brass and choir.