



CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
30 N. CLINTON ST.  
IOWA CITY, IA 52245  
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WORSHIP FOR APRIL 18, 2025  
GOOD FRIDAY

“The edges of God are tragedy; the depths of God are joy, beauty, resurrection, life.”  
Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki

PRELUDE

“Were You There?” arr. Mark Hayes

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.**

\*HYMN 85 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 22:54-62

SOLO “*Erbarme Dich*” J. S. Bach  
Marie Von Behren Soprano  
Diane Dahl-McCoy Violin

*Erbarme dich, mein Gott,  
Um meiner Zähren Willen!  
Schaue hier, Herz und Auge  
Weint vor dir bitterlich.  
Erbarme dich, erbarme dich!*

Have mercy, my God,  
for the sake of my tears!  
Look here, heart and eyes  
weep bitterly before you.  
Have mercy, have mercy

SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 27: 27-31, 45

MUSICAL MEDITATION “Near the Cross” Setting by John Carter

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 23:32-35, 39-49

\*HYMN 99 “Throned Upon the Awful Tree”

**Throned upon the awful tree,  
Lamb of God, Your grief I see.  
Darkness veils Your anguished face;  
None its lines of woe can trace.  
None can tell what pangs unknown  
Hold You silent and alone--**

**Silent through those three dread hours,  
Wrestling with the evil powers,  
Left alone with human sin,  
Gloom around You and within,  
Till the appointed time is nigh,  
Til the Lamb of God may die.**

**Hark, that cry that peals aloud  
Upward through the whelming cloud!  
You, the Father's only Son,  
You, His own anointed one,  
You are asking--can it be --  
"Why have You forsaken Me?"**

**Lord, should fear and anguish roll,  
Flooding o'er my sinful soul,  
You, who once were thus bereft  
That Your own might ne'er be left,  
Teach me by that bitter cry  
In the gloom to know You nigh.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 23:44-47

**\*HYMN 86    "When We are Tempted to Deny Your Son  
When we are tempted to deny your Son; because we fear the anger of the world,  
And we are few who hear the insults hurled, your will, O God, be done.**

**When we are tempted to betray your Son, because he leads us in a harder way,  
And makes demands we do not want to pay, your will, O God, be done.**

**When we forget the cross that held your Son, and would avoid the burden of this life;  
The cry for justice and an end to strife...your will, O God, be done.**

**When doubt obscures the victory of your Son, and faith is weak and all resolve has fled,  
Help us to know him risen from the dead: your will, O God, be done."**

REFLECTION

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Luke 23:49-56

**\*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 "O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High" arr. David N. Johnson

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, April 5. The Sunrise Service will be led by members of the Confirmation Class at 7:30 p.m. Our Easter breakfast will be held in Rockwood Hall following. At 10:15 we will hold our festival Easter service with brass and choir.