

Columbia United Church Of Christ

April 2, 2021
Good Friday



CUCC
Columbia United Church of Christ

CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God's children.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey;
No matter where you are on your faith journey;
No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression or identity;
No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality or politics;
No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status or family structure;
No matter your social, economic, educational, legal or life circumstances;
You are welcome here!

Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

**Columbia
United Church
Of Christ**



April 2, 2021

7:00pm Worship

Good Friday

**indicates that all are invited to stand, if comfortably able*

This Somber service reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice to illustrate the extent of God's love for us and the desertion of his friends as they left him, one by one, to face his challengers alone.

Jesus remained true to our relationship even unto death.

Tenebrae is the Latin word for "shadows." It is a service of lessons accompanied by the gradual extinguishing of lights.

It is customary to observe this ceremony during a Good Friday service to commemorate Jesus standing alone for us.

***After the Christ Candle is extinguished
and the Tolling of the Bell,
you are invited to depart in silence***

Prelude

Amy Crousore & Harry Beckett

"Were You There/Amazing Grace"

(traditional)

Bringing in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

Judas, slave to jealousy; are you here?

I am here.

Peter, slave to fear; are you here?

I am here.

Thomas, slave to doubt; are you here?

I am here.

Sadducees, Pharisees, Chief Priests and Scribes;

slaves to Roman rule, are you here?

I am here.

Pilate, slave to expediency, are you here?

I am here.

We come as men and women who have participated in the crucifixion as surely as these first century citizens have. We have alienated God from ourselves, from the world and from each other.

But we remember the true story of Good Friday; that despite our betrayal, despite our denial, despite our doubt, and despite our fears, God loves us so as to die for us. Our sins of selfish neglect are forgiven. We are loved!

Come, let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

#224

***Gathering Prayer**

Ever-Present God, on this Good Friday evening, our whole world is engulfed in shadows as we remember the story of Jesus' death. We confess that we want to push the fast forward button on this familiar story and get on with Easter; because Good Friday hurts so much.

**It hurts to think of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.
It hurts to imagine Jesus abandoned and suffering
with only a faithful few watching him breathe his last breath.
It hurts to watch your light overtaken
by the shadows of the world.**

**But we must find our place in this crucifixion story
and feel the pain that is there;
The pain of the world.
The pain of faithless decisions, of betrayal, of injustice.
Jesus entered that pain out of love for you and for us
To witness to the Truth that is Justice, Wholeness and Love.**

**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 and always, In Jesus name, Amen**

***Prayer Response "Grant Us Peace"**

**Hear our Prayer, O Lord;
Hear our prayer, O Lord!
Hear our Prayer, O Lord!
And Grant us Thy Peace! A-men!**

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

**"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
(Sung as children return to their seats)
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
No turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.**

Anthem

"In All Our Griefs"

**Men's Ensemble
*Keesecker***

Sermon

"Friday"

Pastor Rick

Meditation Hymn “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” #190

Community Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

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; And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Meditation Hymn “Ah, Holy Jesus” #218

The Service of Shadows

As the readers share the Tenebrae service, reading the story of the crucifixion and extinguishing the candles, you are invited to contemplate the nail you picked up on your way in; how it pierced the hands and feet of Jesus, and how our sins do the same thing, figuratively, every day. Bring your nail home with you and meditate on it as a symbol of Jesus’ sacrifice.

The Shadow of Betrayal Matthew 26:20-25

The Shadow of Desertion Matthew 26:31-35

The Agony of the Soul Luke 22:39-44

The Unshared Vigil Mark 14:32-41

The Hour has Come John 17:1-6

That All May Be One John 17:15-22

The Arrest John 18:1-5

The Shadow of the Cross Mark 15:16-20

The Christ Candle Stands Alone

The Crucifixion of Jesus Luke 23:26-49

The Light of Christ is Crucified

The Toll of the Bell

*As the Bell tolls, you are invited
to depart the Sanctuary in Silence*

Matthew 26:20-25

²⁰When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve; ²¹and while they were eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me."

²²And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born."

²⁵Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?"

Matthew 26:31-35

³¹Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' ³²But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." ³³Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." ³⁴Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Luke 22:39-44

³⁹He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." ⁴¹Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, ⁴²"Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." ⁴³Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. ⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Mark 14:32-41

³²They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. ³⁴And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." ³⁵And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? ³⁸Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. ⁴¹He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed."

John 17:1-6

¹⁷After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. ⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me; they have kept your word.

John 17:15-22

¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one."

John 18:1-5

¹⁸After 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. ²Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³So 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. ⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" ⁵They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵while the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. ⁴⁷When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." ⁴⁸And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

³⁸After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. ³⁹Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Columbia United Church of Christ

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**The journey does not end here;
it continues to the Resurrection, and beyond.
Join us Sunday morning at 6:30am and 10:30am
as the journey continues!**