

St. John's United Church of Christ

6 P.M. Worship

April 3, 2026

Good Friday

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringing of the Chimes

Prelude

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Scriptures: Isaiah 52:13-53:6

The Suffering Servant

¹³ See, my servant shall prosper;
he shall be exalted and lifted up
and shall be very high.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were astonished at him^[a]
—so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of mortals—

¹⁵ so he shall startle^[b] many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him,
for that which had not been told them they shall see,
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

53 Who has believed what we have heard?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by others;
a man of suffering^[c] and acquainted with infirmity,
and as one from whom others hide their faces^[d]
he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Psalm 22:1-11, 16-23

Plea for Deliverance from Suffering and Hostility

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night but find no rest.

³ Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴ In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵ To you they cried and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶ But I am a worm and not human,
scorned by others and despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me mock me;
they sneer at me; they shake their heads;

⁸ "Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!"

⁹ Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother's breast.

¹⁰ On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

¹¹ Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.

¹⁶ For dogs are all around me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they bound my hands and feet.

¹⁷ I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸ they divide my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far away!
O my help, come quickly to my aid!

20 Deliver my soul from the sword,
 my life from the power of the dog!
 21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!
 From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.
 22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters;
 in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
 23 You who fear the LORD, praise him!
 All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;
 stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

* Hymn	<i>"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"</i>	#195 vs 1-3
<p>When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.</p> <p>Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the cross of Christ, my God: all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.</p>	<p>See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?</p>	

Life Story of Jesus of Nazareth

* Hymn	<i>"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"</i>	#202 vs 1-2
<p>O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown: how pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn! How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!</p>	<p>What thou, O Christ, 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, and keep me in thy grace.</p>	

Tribute by friend Peter

Tribute from friend Mary Magdalene

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"Lift High the Cross"

#108

Refrain:
Lift high the Cross,
the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.
The hosts of God in unity combine. (Refrain)

Each newborn servant of the Crucified
bears on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
(Refrain)

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
your death has brought us life eternally.
(Refrain)

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the crucified for victory. (Refrain)

Closing Prayer & Benediction:

Our service for Jesus is coming to an end, join me in a final prayer, let us stand together:

God thank you for being with us in this wondering moment
where we stand poised between life and death,
filled to the brim with sorrow,
filled with thoughts of what has been.
Thank you for the gift of life.
Thank you for our friend Jesus
who was a gift to the world,
a gift in each of our lives.
Comfort us even as we are shaken by the horror of these last hours.
Be our friend in this time of sorrow,
and sustain us in the days to come.
Now Jesus, may God bless you and keep you,
May the very face of God shine upon you, and be gracious to you,
May God's presence embrace you and give you eternal peace. Amen.

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Pastor: Rev. Katie Jo Bielke

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The family requests memorial donations to be made to St. John's in loving memory of Jesus.
Good Friday envelopes may be found in the back of the sanctuary, or you may donate online.

