

**Friday, April 3, 2026**  
**Good Friday**  
**St. Mark's United Church of Christ**  
Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz, Pastor  
Ann Rodewald, Organist

*Our Mission is to help others deepen their relationship with God, become faithful followers of Christ, and to share the message of Christ's love with others.*

Meditative Music:  
Bells Ring  
Prelude Gathering for Worship:

*Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?*

*Jesu Priceless Treasure*  
Arr. by Milt Detjen

*\*Bold text means to read in unison*

### **Call to Worship:**

Followers of Jesus, today we arrive at Pilate's palace, hearing the cries of "Crucify! Crucify" from the crowds outside.

**We come to witness Jesus, sentenced to death by religious leaders, government officials, and the crowd.**

Today, we arrive at Golgotha, at the foot of the cross where only a few of Jesus' followers dared to gather to bear witness.

**We come to witness Jesus, crucified for teaching love, speaking truth, and forgiving sins.**

Today, we arrive at the tomb where Jesus' friends laid his body, a final act of love.

**We come to witness Jesus, his death a testament to all that sin and evil will do to resist the power of love to transform the world.**

Today, we arrive at Good Friday to remember, once again, the story of Jesus crucified.

**We come to witness Jesus, who, even in death, shows us the magnitude of God's steadfast love that never fails.**

### **Let us pray:**

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

**Hymn: (#284)**

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

### **Old Testament Scripture Reading:**

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 ESV

*Behold, my servant shall act wisely;  
he shall be high and lifted up,  
and shall be exalted.*

*As many were astonished at you—  
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—  
so shall he sprinkle many nations.*

*Kings shall shut their mouths because of him,  
for that which has not been told them they see,  
and that which they have not heard they understand.*

*Who has believed what he has heard from us?*

*And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?  
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,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.*

*He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief;  
and as one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.  
Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.  
But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.  
All we like sheep have gone astray;  
we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.  
He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.  
By oppression and judgment he was taken away;  
and as for his generation, who considered  
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,  
stricken for the transgression of my people?  
And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.  
Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;  
he has put him to grief;  
when his soul makes an offering for guilt,  
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;  
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.  
Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.  
Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,  
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,  
because he poured out his soul to death  
and was numbered with the transgressors;  
yet he bore the sin of many,  
and makes intercession for the transgressors.*

## **Prayer of Petition:**

O Holy God, the hosannas have died away, the palm branches have turned brittle.  
Now, today, there is only this – each of us, all of us, sitting in the darkness,  
    the hymns of lament in the air,  
    the mumblings of our own feeble confession,  
    on this Friday  
which we tremble to call Good.

What is good about Good Friday?

What is good about the innocent one nailed to a cross?

What is good about the darkness of war that persists today?

What is good about our devastation of the planet?

    About people living in poverty?

    About the fog of addiction, depression, disease, and despair?

What is good about the crushing weight of hunger, racism, scapegoating, apathy?

No, there is nothing good and desirable in these things. Yet you, O God, are Good.

When suffering reigns, yours is the first heart to break. When despair lurks about,  
we remember that you were there first, peering into the abyss and crying out,  
incredibly: “Father, forgive them.”

When we feel forsaken, we remember that in your last moments,  
you cared for your mother and your beloved disciple,  
binding them to one another as a new family.

When we feel overcome by guilt, we remember that you spoke grace to a thief:  
“Today you will be with me in paradise.”

Your love for us is just that boundless, and ever-present, and Good.  
Thank you. What else can we say here, in the dimness, in the darkness,  
but thank you. *Amen.*

## **Scripture Reading:**

*Mark 14:32-42 ESV*

*And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.” And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And again he came and found them sleeping,*

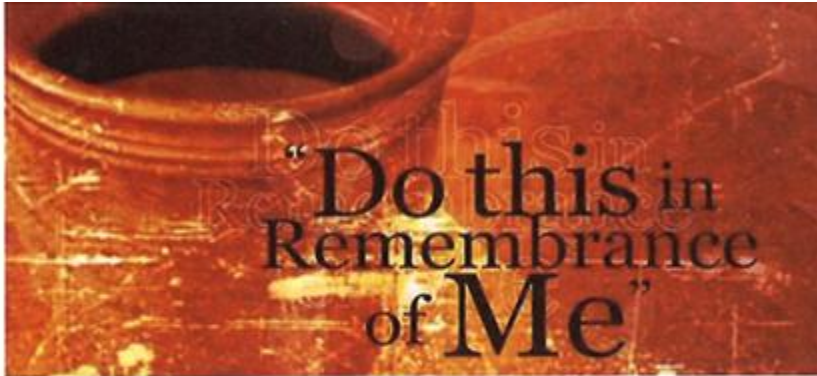
*for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."*

**Message:**

*God Was Oddly Silent*

Rev. Dr. Patrick Schultz

## **Holy Communion with the Lord's Prayer:**



### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE:**

**L:** Come to the Lord's Table, all you who love him. Come to the Lord's Table, confess your sin. Come to the Lord's Table, be at peace. Let us gather our hearts.

**P:** Our hearts are at home in God.

**L:** Let us give thanks for God's unfailing love.

**P:** God's love endures forever.

**L:** Let every heart be uplifted.

**P:** Let us prepare to receive our Christ.

### **THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**P:** And also with you.

**L:** Lift up your hearts.

**P:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**L:** Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.

**P:** It is right to praise you, Lord.

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Holy Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with all your people and all the company of heaven.

**P: God of all creation, from the beginning you have made this world in love, and you have created us to live in love. We see your glory in the tender orchid, in the thunderous storm, in majestic mountains and the glittering expanse of the sea. We rejoice in the works of your hands, and it is right and good for us to give thanks to you, in all times and in all places, with a joyful and grateful heart. So, we join our voices with the voices of the angels and the communion of saints:**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:**

All glory and honor are yours, O God, for you bring life from death, joy from suffering, dancing from mourning, and forgiveness from sin. We give thanks that abundant life is made known to us and present within us in your son Jesus, who has come to live and die as one of us. By him, with him, and in him, the web of your love is made whole, and we with it.

Gather us now at your table, O God, that we may be sustained in our journey of faith. May these gifts of the earth be for us the gift of your goodness made present and made known.

Blessed Trinity, in remembrance of all you have done to save us, we offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has come among us. Christ has died.  
Christ has risen. Christ abides with us.  
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Spirit on us.

**Pour out your Spirit on us.**

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts.

**Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts.**

Make these gifts the body and blood of Christ.

**Make us, through them, Christ's body alive in the world.**

And grant that we who eat of this feast may be filled with your life and goodness. Join me now in prayer, as we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

**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.***

### **Offering:**

Offering, tithes and gifts can be made before or after worship in the offering baskets/plates at the welcome area of the church. St. James is also set up to take on-line offerings through the website (stmstjucc.org).

### **Offertory Music:**

*In the Hour of Trial*

~ *The offering is brought to the altar* ~

### **Sung Response:**

***We give Thee but Thine Own,  
Whate'er the gift may be:  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.***

### **Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving:**

For the very life you gave, which granted us new life, we give thanks. May these offerings, tithes and gifts be used to offer new life to those in need. May our giving be a blessing as you call us to give in faith and not in need. ***Amen.***

### **Hymn of Sending: (#260)**

*The Old Rugged Cross*

### **Benediction:**

May you leave this place with the assurance of forgiveness that is made possible through the sacrifice of Christ. Go forth in hope and anticipation of the ultimate victory that comes with Easter. Go forth! Be Easter people! Loving and serving Him in all that you do, all that you are, and all that you will be, we pray. ***Amen.***

### **Postlude:**

*Go To Dark Gethsemane*

**COME & JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS!**

**St. James UCC**

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.***

***2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.***

***Sunday School at St. James 9-10am every Sunday.***

**St. Mark's UCC**

***1st & 3rd Sundays..... 9:00 a.m.***

***2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays..... 10:30 a.m.***

Services are recorded and available on our church YouTube channel:

St. Mark's & St. James UCC

Like us on Facebook 

Check out our Website: [www.stmstjucc.org](http://www.stmstjucc.org)

Join our prayer team; contact Karen in our Church office: [stmstjoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stmstjoffice@gmail.com)

## Easter Worship

April 5<sup>th</sup>

*Communion will be served*

9:00am St. Mark's UCC

10:30am St. James UCC

Sunday School at St. James 9-10

