



FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
323 South 5th Avenue, West Bend WI 53095

Good Friday

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE:

"Way of the Cross"

Julius Benedict

GREETING:

Pastor: Jesus was tortured, ridiculed, and betrayed. He took up his cross and was finally killed on the cross (a criminal's death). Jesus was hung, stripped of his garments, on the cross between two criminals. He suffered publicly after the Jewish people betrayed him and insisted that he be killed despite not committing any crime. The Gospels record these last phrases during the six hours Jesus was hanging on the cross. The words hold meaning because they are the last words of Jesus before he died, and they show us that Jesus was consistent in his message and mission up until his very last breath. Each of these seven recorded phrases speaks different truths to us as believers. They also confirm who Jesus was and how his life and death fulfilled the Scriptures.

CENTERING MUSIC:

"Seek Ye the Lord"

D. Moore

~GOOD FRIDAY~

L: 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.

P: 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.

L: 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."

P: 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.

Written by MaryAnn McKibben Dana

There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood" UMH 622 (vs 1,2)

FORGIVENESS AT THE CROSS

The First Word

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Scripture: Luke 23:33-34

AUTHORITY AT THE CROSS

The Second Word

“Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise.”

Scripture: Luke 23:39-43

“There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood” UMH 622 (vs 3)

REMEMBRANCE AT THE CROSS

The Third Word

“Women, behold thy son! Son, behold thy mother!”

Scripture: John 19:25-27

SUBMISSION AT THE CROSS

The Fourth Word

“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?”

Scripture: Mark 15:33-34

~PRAYER OF CONFESSION~

L: God of love, today we remember all that our blessed Lord endured for us. Let us remember how Jesus was betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked people. Lord Jesus, we remember today that it was one of Your own familiar friends who betrayed You, and we know that there is nothing that so breaks the heart as the disloyalty of one whom we call friend. Grant that we may not betray You.

P: Save us: from the cowardice that would disown You when it is hard to be true to You; from the disloyalty that betrays You in the hour when

You need someone to stand by You; from the fickleness that blows hot and cold in its devotion; from the fair-weather friendship that, when things are difficult or dangerous, makes us ashamed to show whose we are and whom we serve.

L: Let us remember how Jesus suffered death upon the Cross. Lord Jesus, help us to remember the lengths to which Your love was ready to go; that having loved Your own, You loved them to the very end; the love that which none can be greater, the love that lays down its life for its friends; that it was while people were yet enemies that You died for them.

All: Let us remember how Jesus now lives and reigns ...Help us to remember, that the crucified Lord is the Risen Lord; that the cross has become the Crown. So, grant unto us, to trust in His love and to live in His presence; that we may share in His glory. This we ask for Your love's sake. Amen. Written by William Barclay

"There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood" UMH 622 (vs 4,5)

SUFFERING AT THE CROSS

The Fifth Word

"I thirst."

Scripture: John 19:28-29

"The Old Rugged Cross" UMH 504 (vs 1,2)

VICTORY AT THE CROSS

The Sixth Word

"It is finished."

Scripture: John 19:30

“The Old Rugged Cross” UMH 504 (vs 3,4)

CONFIDENCE AT THE CROSS

The Seventh Word

“Father, into Thy hands I commend my Spirit.”

Scripture: Luke 23:44-46

Pastor: Gracious God, deep in the human heart is an unquenchable trust that life does not end with death. Like a seed which is buried in order to bring forth life, Christ goes to the tomb to usher in new life. We trust that we too will be raised to new life, in this world, here and now, and in the mystery of what lies beyond physical death. We trust that the whole world will be born anew, that your kingdom is coming as a new heaven and a new earth.

On this day of darkness, it is for the Kingdom to come that we boldly pray:

All: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and forever. AMEN.

*Feel free to stay and spend some time in quiet reflection.
We ask that when you are ready to leave, please dismiss in silence.*

Deanna Gibeau, Accompanist
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor