

GOOD FRIDAY | AGAIN & AGAIN, WE FIND OURSELVES HERE

READ John 19:1-30

FROM THE ARTIST | Hannah Garrity

Pitiful, sad, scary. The continuous repetition of history is so poignant with our yearly reading of this text. As I drew and cut the layers of this work, I contemplated the ways in which I play the role of Pontius Pilate or the crowd in my daily life. Where do I perpetuate hate? Where do I forward injustice? Where do I join the voice of the wayward crowd?

Pontius Pilate depicts the weakness of the status quo. Structures—what holds them up? What makes them fall? Windows are the lenses through which we see the world. In this image, we look through the window of my favorite architectural style, Arts and Crafts, to the cathedral window style. I portrayed layers of architecture and symbol. The cross is a contentious symbol. I repeat it again and again. The cross is the instrument that murders God incarnate. The crown of thorns shames Jesus. I have placed the Alpha and Omega within the crown of thorns on the cross, reminding us that the crowd put God to death and shamed God. The cross I drew was modeled after Celtic crosses made of nails.

Again and again, we meet Pontius Pilate, knowing Jesus to be innocent, refusing to protect him from the hate of the masses, refusing to do the right thing. As I look around me now, I see the same things happening in our daily lives, in the life of our nation, in the life of the world. How can I pivot those places in my life where I resemble the crowd and crucify the righteous, or where I resemble Pontius Pilate and perpetuate the injustice of the status quo?

PRAY

Breathe deeply as you gaze upon the image on the left. Imagine placing yourself in this scene. What do you see? How do you feel? Get quiet and still, offering a silent or spoken prayer to God.











Hymns + Songs | Pages are listed for the printed bulletin
Numbers (#) are listed for music in the Lift Up Your Hearts (red) hymnal
Bold Print | Speak or sing together in unison.

₱ Please rise in body or in spirit.

Good Friday

7 p.m. | March 29, 2024 St. Andrew Presbyterian Church | Iowa City, Iowa

As you enter the Sanctuary, you are invited to light a tea-light from the back table and to walk forward to place it on the cross.

At the conclusion of tonight's service, please come forward to extinguish your candle.

Thought for Reflection

"A generous heart is always open, always ready to receive our going and coming. In the midst of such love we need never fear abandonment.

This is the most precious gift true love offers—the experience of knowing we always belong."

- Bell Hooks, All About Love: New Visions

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Prelude | Were You There?, arr. by Jason Krug

Call to Gather

On this, a most faithful and fate-filled night,

we reach the climax in the unfolding drama of the life and ministry of Jesus.

This is a fateful time because we have been a faithless people.

We have been too much like the innkeeper who could find no room for Jesus in the inn; and the rich young ruler who could find no room in his life for Jesus' radical teachings; and even Herod, who could not find room for Jesus in his oppressively-structured world.

This is a fateful time because we have been a faithless people.

We have been too much like James and John.

who promised to follow Jesus but demanded choice seats;

and Peter, who hailed Jesus as the Christ but wanted nothing to do with a suffering servant; and even Judas, who loved Jesus much

but wanted him to claim a throne of Messianic power and might!

This is a fateful time because we have been a faithless people.

As we recall a cross of our own construction,

we remember all of the crosses we have shunned to be safe and secure, untroubled and unmoved.

Grant us the grace, O God, to follow this one who was faithful unto death that we might be faithful to him into life, this day and all days!

Gathering Hymn | "A Cross of Our Construction," pg. 7

Prayer of Confession and Promise of Ever-Present Grace

If any of us ever missed curfew,

we might know the feeling of trying to sneak back in the house—tiptoeing past our parents' bedroom door.

Maybe we carried our shoes in our hands,

trying to be stealthy, hoping they wouldn't catch us.

In many ways, we treat Good Friday the same way—

like a teenager trying to avoid curfew.

We long to tiptoe past this painful event—

and to avoid the confrontation and the hurt.

We want to take off our shoes and slide right past the cross—and onward toward the empty tomb.

But we know there is no resurrection without crucifixion.

There are no flowers without the rain, there is no love without a little heartache.

It's cliché, but in this case, it is true.

So please join with me in the prayer of confession as we take the time to intentionally stand still—right *here*—with both feet on the ground.

Please join me in prayer ...

Holy God, we admit that we struggle with this day.

We struggle with Good Friday for three reasons.

First, no one likes to see another suffer.

On this day we are face to face with the cross—and your suffering is hard for us to bear.

Second, the pain of this day reminds us of the pain of past and present days, and our own pain is hard for us to bear.

Third, we are reminded of the suffering we cast onto others— which means we have to confront the pain we have caused you.

So forgive us for skirting around the edges of this day.

Forgive us for averting our eye and avoiding the sinking feeling in our chests.

Forgive us for distracting ourselves from the hurt, and forgive us for the ways in which we add to the suffering of this world.

We do not like to be here-

a place of grief and despair, at the foot of the cross, face to face with state-sanctioned violence.

And yet, here is where we are.

So forgive us, and then use us for your abundant good.

Time for silent confession

Family of faith, even on this day, even at the foot of a cross constructed by us, even here, even now,

Christ is saying, "Forgive them—for they know not what they do."

We often don't feel that we deserve this amazing grace,

but we receive it nonetheless.

So say these words aloud with me, and trust that they belong to you:

In my best and worst moments,

I am a Child of God.

Nothing can separate me from that truth, not even death or destruction.

Musical Response | "Take O Take Me As I Am," pg. 8 (hymnal, #741)

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be; set your seal upon my heart and live in me.

Psalm Reading | Psalm 22:1-2, 9-11, 19 (*Bible*, pg. 434)

Hymn | "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," pg. 9 (hymnal, #168)

Epistle Reading | Hebrews 10:16-25 (Bible, pg. 976)

Choral Anthem | I Believe, by Mark Miller

Gospel Reading | John 19:1-16 (Bible, pg. 881)

Hymn | "Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended," pg. 10 (*hymnal*, #172)

Gospel Reading | John 19:16a-37 (Bible, pg. 881)

Choral Anthem | *Thy Will Be Done,* by Craig Courtney

Dramatic Reading | from A Woman Wrapped in Silence, by John W. Lynch

Choral Anthem | Mary Speaks, by Daniel Gawthrop

Closing Prayer

Extinguishing Candles

You are invited to come forward to extinguish the candle that you placed on the cross at the beginning of the service.

Please leave the sanctuary in silence

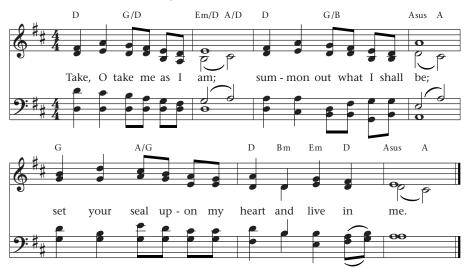
Tonight's Worship Participants

Rev. W. Robert Martin, III, pastor
Dō Martin, Rebecca Schuchert, and Patti Benson, worship leaders
Austen Wilson, director of music ministries
Logos Choir | Abby Chen, organist and accompanist
Matin Ringers | Laura Kastens, assistant director of handbell ministries
Vocal Ensemble

A Cross of Our Construction



741 Take, O Take Me as I Am



Words and Music (TAKE ME AS I AM 7.7.7.4): John L. Bell (b. 1949) © 1995 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent

Reminder of Upcoming Events

- Easter | March 31
 - Fireside Service: 6:30 a.m.
 - Sunrise Service: 7 a.m.
 - Breakfast Potluck: 8-11 a.m.
 - Worship: 9 & 11 a.m.
- At the Table | April 4
- Big Table | April 5
- Sunday Solace | April 7
- Spaghetti Lunch | April 7
- Handbell Choir Festival | April 12-13
- Senior Moments Coffee | April 16
- Coffee with Leaders | April 21
- Earth Sunday | April 21 | with guest speaker, the Rev. Dr. Robert Traer
- 25Live Walk-a-Thon | April 25

- ETC Trivia Night | April 26
- Child-Led Worship Service | April 28
- At the Table | May 2
- ETC Night Games | May 3
- Melodious Harmony: Arsenal Duo | May 4
- Sunday Solace | May 5
- Guatemala Fundraiser | May 5
- Final Week of Sunday Classes | May 12
- Affirmation Milestones | May 19
- Coffee with Leaders | May 19
- Pancake Breakfast & Sensory Fair | May 19
- Humanize My Hoodie Screening | May 19
- Senior Moments Coffee | May 21
- Sunday Solace | June 2
- Flamy Grant Concert | June 4

168 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded



Chord symbols represent a simplified harmony.

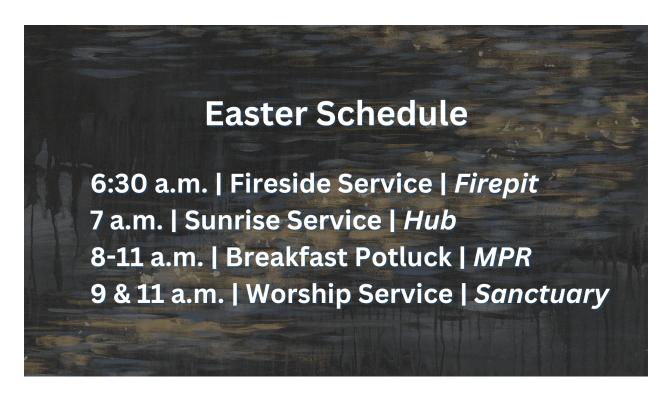
For an alternative arrangement see 656

Words: Latin, medieval; German tr. Paul Gerhardt, 1656; English tr. James W. Alexander, 1830, alt., P.D. Music (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN 7.6.7.6 D): Hans Leo. Hassler, 1601; adapt. and harm. Johann S. Bach in St. Matthew Passion, 1729, P.D.

172 Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended







St. Andrew's Statement of Inclusion

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." - Romans 15:7

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church affirms the worth and dignity of all people. We are all created by God in God's image, and God found all of creation to be good. Just as Jesus welcomed everyone into fellowship, especially those marginalized by society, we welcome all people to our congregation regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic status, marital status, family structure, country of origin, or immigration status. All are welcome to participate fully in the life of St. Andrew: worship, service, baptism, communion, membership, ministry, and leadership. To this end, we affirm that the covenant of marriage should be extended to any two consenting adults who seek to enter a marriage based upon love, responsibility, mutual respect, and trust in God's grace. We acknowledge that the Presbyterian Book of Order allows for each pastor to follow their own conscience as to whether they will perform a particular marriage service.

We recognize that the Christian church has historically condemned and excluded LGBTQ+ persons from the community of faith, and we assert that such actions are incompatible with the gospel of Jesus. We also acknowledge, and deeply regret, that St. Andrew Presbyterian's actions have at times caused harm to our relationships with members of the LGBTQ+ community, including members of our own congregation. As we continue to grow as a congregation and discern our path forward in God's love and grace, we seek to rectify these past wrongs and pursue justice for those who have been and continue to be oppressed. We commit to continue to learn and work toward ensuring that St. Andrew is a safe place where all people are welcomed and loved.

Questions about Worship @ St. Andrew?

- **Welcome!** We are happy to have you join us today. If you would like more information about St. Andrew, please email **office@saintandrew-ic.org**.
- Our worship services begin **in-person and online at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings**, followed by Sunday School and Adult Christian Education offerings from September to April and a variety of After Worship activities from May to August. *The service usually begins with Welcome & Announcements a few minutes before 9:30 a.m.*
- All ages are welcome in our worship services. Worship materials for all ages are available in The Maker's Toolbox outside the north entrance to the Sanctuary.
- Nursery care (up to age 2) is provided in the Lower Level throughout the morning. Programming for children (through Kindergarten age) begins in the Lower Level after the Time for Young Disciples on most Sundays and after the Sharing of Christ's Peace and Compassion on Communion Sundays.
- Large print hymnals, bibles, and bulletins also are available outside the Sanctuary doors. A T-Coil hearing assist loop is also available for those with this feature on their hearing aids.
- Unless otherwise designated, gifts given to the weekly offering—either in the offering plates or online—support the church budget, including staff salaries, utilities, mission outreach, and all aspects of ministry at St. Andrew.
- To log into the **St. Andrew Connect** system, either download the **St. Andrew App** through the **App Store/Google Play** or visit https://saintandrew.ccbchurch.com.
- Permission to livestream the music in this service is from CCLI (#617801) and One License (A-711114).

