

# ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch  
**The hymns today come from The Methodist Hymnal.**

**APRIL 18, 2025**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**SILENT MEDITATION:** "Burst forth, all the dark well-springs of my life! Come flying all my nights, dark birds of guilt, descend upon me with outstretched wings: I will go into deepest sorrow that I may find my God. -Gertrude von Le Fort

## GATHERING MUSIC

### GREETING

### PRELUDE

"What Wondrous Love is This"

Arr. John Carter.

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather together on this day of sadness and grief.

**All: We need one another as we bear the absence of light.**

One: Where is God amid this tragedy and suffering?

**All: God mourns with us now in this time of trouble.**

One: We are bewildered by so much we do not understand.

**All: Is this the end of all our hopes and dreams?**

### \*HYMN No. 424 "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone"

MAITLAND

Must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free?  
No, there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me.

How happy are the saints above, who once went sorrowing here!  
But now they taste unmingled love, and joy without a tear.

The consecrated cross I'll bear till death shall set me free;  
and then go home my crown to wear, for there's a crown for me.

### \*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of all creation, we come to you out of our need. Often, we are overwhelmed by the darkness of suffering. We know what it is to be anxious over uncertainty and to grieve loss. As we behold the cross, we are reminded that our human needs are met with power of your unceasing love and grace. Draw us to the cross and let us know more fully a sense of your presence and promise. Assure us that you are with us in our darkness. Amen

### SPECIAL MUSIC

"O Magnum Mysterium"  
Lisa Jaberg, violinist

Morten Lauridsen

### MEDITATION

"Where Would We Go?"

### HYMN No. 288 "Were You There?" (vs 1,4,5)

WERE YOU THERE

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 the sun refused to shine? Were you there when the sun refused to shine?  
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

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?

## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too present to run away from, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming darkness. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light and hope of the world. Amen

## **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

### **\*HYMN** No. 290 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

REDHEAD 76

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;  
your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.  
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

See him at the judgment hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay;  
all is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes; Savior, teach us so to rise.

## **A SERVICE OF SHADOW**

<b>Shadow of Agony</b>	John 12:27-33
<b>Shadow of Unshared Vigil</b>	Matthew 26:36-46
<b>Shadow of Betrayal and Arrest</b>	Matthew 26:47-56
<b>Shadow of Denial</b>	Luke 22:54-62
<b>Shadow of Verdict</b>	Mark 15:1-14
<b>Shadow of the Cross</b>	Mark 15:16-26
<b>Shadow of Death</b>	John 19:28-30
<b>Through the Darkness</b>	Matthew 27:54

## **POSTLUDE**

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

Rex Koury

*During the Postlude, please take an opportunity to meditate upon the cross.  
When you are ready, you may leave silently in hope of the coming light.*