



Good Friday Ecumenical Worship Service, April 2, 2021 Noon

Welcome

Rev. Jeff Jagers, Fenton United Methodist Church

Call to Worship (John 18-19)

Rev. Jeff Jagers

Come let us gather again in the shadow of the cross of Christ.

**We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.**

Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken savior on a cross?

**Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities.**

**Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.**

Let us gather again in the shadow of the cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid. Let us live our lives in a way that indicates why this Friday is called "Good."

**Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven, that we might have faith, hope, and love, witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.**

Opening Prayer

Rev. Jeff Jagers

O God of mercy and might, in the mystery of the suffering and death of Jesus your Son you offer your infinite life to the world. Gather us around the cross of Christ, and preserve us until the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord [who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.] Amen.

Opening Hymn

Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed

H- 294

Prayer of Invocation (John 19: 25-27)

Rev. Dana Runestad, Transfiguration Lutheran Church

Holy Jesus, we are here.

We stand beside your cross like Mary your mother, and the faithful women, and John whom you asked Mary to claim, and we wait for your word to us.

Claim us. You are here. Speak to us in your ever-speaking voice.

Speak again through your Holy Spirit.

For us it is not yet finished.

We are here.

You are here.

Holy Jesus, speak!

— from "Last Word" Service Prayers for Good Friday, written and arranged by The Rev. Marilyn Kennedy Levine. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website.

Scripture (John 19:16a-30)

Rev. Dana Runestad

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written." When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,

"They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

And that is what the soldiers did. Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home. After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Song

Sometimes Our Only Song Is Weeping

Rev. Jagers/Rev. Carnes

Introduction to Confession

Rev. Lindsey Carnes, Trinity United and Fenton First Presbyterian

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Lindsey Carnes

It seems impossible that anyone would give what you did to save men and women like us;

**But, you gave yourself freely for our sakes.**

It seems unimaginable that anyone could love the way you did, including outcasts, rebels, and even your persecutors, and refusing to strike back;

**But, you loved so much that you laid down your life for our sakes.**

It seems inconceivable that anyone would offer the forgiveness that you did even as nails pierced your flesh, and the cross was stained with your blood;

**But, you did not hold our sin against us, and took on yourself the suffering that should have been ours.**

Forgive us that we have allowed greed and violence, pride and deceit, bitterness and coldness, to have a place in our hearts;

**And fill us again with Your immeasurable grace, Your inexhaustible love, and Your unconquerable life, that we may be changed, and may express our love and devotion through lives of worship.**

**Amen.**

(John van de Laar, South African Methodist minister and worship leader © 2008 Sacredise <http://www.sacredise.com/>)

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Lindsey Carnes

Scripture (Psalm 22)

Rev. Tracie Little, St. Jude's Episcopal Church of Fenton

*Plea for Deliverance from Suffering and Hostility*

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest. Yet you are

holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame. But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; "Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!" Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God. Do not be far from me. for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled; I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog! Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Sermon of Lament

Rev. Robbie Carnes, Fenton First Presbyterian Church

Prayer of Lament

Rev. Jeff Jagers

Gracious God, by day and night we pour out our prayer to you. We are crying for justice, yearning for what is right, longing for your peace. Come quickly to help us, O God; save those who call upon your name.

We hear of hateful violence and senseless killing.... **How long, O Lord?**

We feel the suffering, sorrow, and shame of the oppressed... **How long, O Lord?**

We fear that justice will again be delayed or denied... **How long, O Lord?**

We recognize patterns of privilege and systems of discrimination... **How long, O Lord?**

We see your creation destroyed by carelessness and greed... **How long, O Lord?**

We weep for the victims of Covid 19... **How long, O Lord?**

We grieve the aftermath of economic, social and educational upheaval... **How long, O Lord?**

We pray for an end to this pandemic... **How long, O Lord?**

We long for a day when we can gather safely in your name.

We remember the deaths of all who have died in this past year... **How long, O Lord?**

We name those who have died, aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Hear us, O God:

**Hear us, O God.**

Console us with your presence:

**Console us with your presence.**

Give us your life:

**Give us your life.**

Gracious God, keep us working and praying for the day when your justice will roll like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Replenish our strength and stir up our hope as we look for signs of your coming reign. And fill us with the peace that passes understanding--the deep peace of Christ our Savior, in whose holy name we pray. Amen.

Song

Kevin Marsee

Scripture Reading (2 Peter 3:3-9)

Rev. Tracie Little

First of all you must understand this, that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and indulging their own lusts and saying, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since our ancestors died, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation!" They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago and an earth was formed out of water and by means of water, through which the world of that time was deluged with water and perished. But by the same word the present heavens and earth have been reserved for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the godless. But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

H-286

Sermon of Hope

Rev. Robbie Carnes

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles Creed

Pastor Dana Runestad

**I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offertory / Offering Prayer

Rev. Tracie Little

On the cross, Jesus offered himself to God for the whole world.  
At the foot of his cross, we join our prayers with his.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
As we kneel at the foot of your cross, help us to see and know your love for us,  
So that we may place at your feet all that we have and are.

God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us,  
That your way may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.

Almighty God,  
Look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed  
and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross.  
May this life-giving cross be the source of all our joy and peace.  
We ask this through the name of Jesus,  
Who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

H-297

Benediction

Rev. Jeff Jagers