

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"We Shine For All Through Christ"
St. Marys, Ohio

April 3, 2026

GOOD FRIDAY

7:00 pm

PRELUDE

"Were You There" – Jason Krug

(Good Friday is the day we remember as the day Jesus died on the cross just outside the city walls of Jerusalem on a hill called Golgotha. We refer to it normally as Good Friday because we believe that through his death upon the cross of Calvary, Jesus died for our sins. This love was given by Christ so that we might have eternal life through faith.)

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Come, all who seek the Savior. Come, all who long for mercy. This is a solemn day, a day of sacrifice, a day of love poured out.

People: We come to remember Christ's suffering. We come to behold the cross.

Leader: On this day, the Lamb of God was slain for the sins of the world. He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.

People: By His wounds, we are healed. By His blood, we are redeemed.

Leader: Let us gather in reverence and gratitude. Let us draw near to the One who gave His life for us.

People: We come to worship Christ, our Redeemer and King.

Leader: Though darkness covered the earth, the light of God's love was not extinguished. Though sorrow filled the hearts of His followers, hope was not lost.

People: We will remember, we will mourn, and we will wait — trusting in God's promise.

***HYMN #255**

"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

A PRAYER FOR GOOD FRIDAY

Leader: Almighty God, on this solemn day, we come before You with hearts humbled by the weight of the cross. We remember the suffering, the pain, and the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ. In His wounds, we find our healing. In His death, we find our life.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

Leader: Lord Jesus, You bore our sins upon the cross. You endured rejection, agony, and the darkness of death so that we might be reconciled to the Father. We stand in awe of Your boundless love.

People: We give thanks for Your sacrifice.

Leader: On this Good Friday, we confess our sins—our failings, our doubts, our selfishness. Yet, in Your mercy, You call us to repentance and offer us forgiveness.

People: Cleanse us, O Lord, and make us new.

Leader: We pray for a world in need of redemption. For the brokenhearted, the suffering, and those who feel forsaken—may they find hope in the Cross of Christ.

People: May Your grace shine upon them.

Leader: As we remember the darkness of this day, may we never forget that resurrection is coming. Through Christ's victory, sin and death are defeated, and we are made alive in Him.

People: We place our hope in You, O God.

Leader: Father, we surrender our lives to You. May we live in the power of the cross and walk in the light of Your love.

People: In Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF BLESSING

Though we have walked through the sorrow of the cross, we are not abandoned. Though Christ was laid in the tomb, the story is not over. Even in the darkest hour, God's love remains steadfast, and His mercy endures forever. We trust in the promise of God's redemption. Because Jesus was wounded for our transgressions, we are healed. Because He bore our sins, we are forgiven. Because He was forsaken, we are never alone. Thanks be to God for His unfailing love. Though we remember the weight of the cross today, we look ahead to the joy of resurrection. The darkness will not last, for Christ's victory is sure. We wait in faith, knowing that hope will rise.

***HYMN #300**

"In the Garden"

GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 23:32-49

MESSAGE

“Today I Remember His Pain”

THE POUNDING OF THE NAILS

During this service you will hear the sound of a hammer striking three nails. These strikes remind us of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ upon the cross. The sound is not meant to dramatize violence, but to help us enter the weight of this moment in the story of our faith. With each strike we remember that Christ willingly gave himself for the sake of the world, bearing the cost of sin and brokenness. After the final nail is struck, the Christ Candle will be extinguished, symbolizing the death of Christ and the darkness that covered the land.

PRAYERFUL RECESS

Jesus is laid in the tomb, and his followers leave him to God, in the silence and rest of Sabbath. Pastor Ed will lead the congregation out of the sanctuary in silence.

You are invited to leave into the shadows of this night.

PASTOR.....Rev. Ed Karges

ORGANIST.....Ann Vogel



**Good Friday Service
April 3, 2026
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
St. Marys, Ohio**