

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

**April 2, 2021** **Good Friday** **7:00 p.m.**  
**ORDER OF SERVICE**

## THE GATHERING IN SILENCE

(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 (the place of the skull). 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: Fear and fascination drew observers to the first holy Friday. These emotions have attracted people ever since.

**People:** We cannot flee from the pain and suffering which Jesus experienced on our behalf.

Leader: We wonder why one so faithful and loving had to face the agony of rejection and death.

**People:** Jesus was wounded for our transgressions, and was bruised for our iniquities.

Leader: In this time of worship, we join Christ at Calvary, aware of our involvement in the cruelty there.

**People: Our faithfulness is tested at the cross and our lives are judged by our response.**

**HYMN #261**     “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**      Mark 8:31-38

*A Time of Silent Reflection: What does it mean to lose one's life for Christ and the gospel, and at the same time to save it?*

**\*LITANY OF CONFESSION**

Leader: God, we thank you for Jesus of Nazareth who asks us to carry his cross and follow him.

**People:** Help us to remember that if we truly want to save our lives, we must lose them.

Leader: Help us to show love for one another. We know this is the best way to show Jesus that we love him and are serious about carrying his cross and following him.

**All:** Thanks be to God for Jesus who taught us that love is the greatest gift we can give to one another, as well as to him.

## THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, you know how exposed we are to the temptations of the world: Grant us nevertheless the strength to follow our Master even to the greatest sacrifice expected of us. Keep us thoughtful about the cost of love and make us conscious of what it means to lay down a life for a friend. Wherever in discipleship you lead us, help us to see that our Lord has walked that road before us. Let his seat and his blood and his tears and his pain become the very elements which give us courage to surmount any obstacles which would keep us from fully praising and serving you in his name. Amen.**

### *A Time of Silent Reflection*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**      John 19:38-42

## GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION

**HYMN #255**                      “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

### \*THE BENEDICTION

Leader: Go out to keep your vigil at the cross. Let prayer and meditation be a means of transformation.

**People:** We carry with us the tragedy of this day. But also, its possibilities for reclaiming a heritage and recovering a faith to sustain and move us.

Leader: Say “yes” to the Christ, without excuses or reservations.

**People: Worthy is the one who was slain, to receive glory and honor and power. Amen.**

**PASTOR.....**Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer

**ORGANIST.....Ann Vogel**

