

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

April 15, 2022 **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?

SPECIAL MUSIC “Were You There?” Ann Vogel, organist

***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 Jesus has walked that road before us. Let his sweat 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 18:1-19:42

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION “The Crucifixion: A Tale of Two Kingdoms”

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.

***POSTLUDE** "Crucifixus" Gordon Young

LITURGIST.....Rev. C. David Hainer

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

ORGANIST.....Ann Vogel

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Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor	Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss, Children's Ministry Coordinators
Jim Huckemeyer, Director of Music	Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist
Ann Vogel, Organist	Andrea Spencer, Organist
Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director	Madeline Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant	Brad and Nam Gehrlich, Custodian
Rich Spencer, Audio and Video	Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor	Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary
Becky Anderson, Church Pianist	