

Everything In Between Acceptance & Resistance

April 18, 2025



first congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
timeless worship + modern faith

Vision Statement:

We Are a Nurturing, Beloved Community.
We Are Growing Authentic Christian Faith.
We Are Living Christ-Inspired Action.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18, 2025

7:00 pm

PRELUDE

Emilie Buhl

OPENING SONG

“Kyrie Eleison”



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WELCOME

Sharon Benton

CALL TO WORSHIP

by Joanna Harader

- One Voice: In this holy week, on this holy night,
All Voices: We come to be present with Jesus in his suffering.
One Voice: With the shouting of Palm Sunday behind us and
the joy of Easter not yet come,
All Voices: We gather with our breaking, our broken hearts.
One Voice: In this world that is at once beautiful and holy and tragic,
All Voices: We seek to be present with all who suffer.
One Voice: When sorrow threatens to overwhelm,
All Voices: We long for a brave and sacred space—
One Voice: A space where we can listen and sing and pray,
All Voices: A space to sit with our grief and our questions.
One Voice: Let us be that space for each other tonight
All Voices: As we remember the story together.

**Rise in body or spirit*

READING

Luke 22:39-46

He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me, yet not my will but yours be done." ... When he got up from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not come into the time of trial."

SONG

"Stay With Me"

Stay with me, re - main here with me. Watch and

pray, watch and pray.

WORDS: Taizé Community, 1978; para. Matthew 26:36-41
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

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SILENCE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:47-54

While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus said to him, "Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?" When those who were around him saw what was coming, they asked, "Lord, should we strike with the sword?" Then one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus said, "No more of this!" And he touched his ear and healed him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, "Have you come out with swords and clubs as though I were a rebel? When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour and the power of darkness!" Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him into the high priest's house.

SONG

"Were You There?"
arr. by Kevin S. Foster

One Accord

SILENCE**SCRIPTURE**

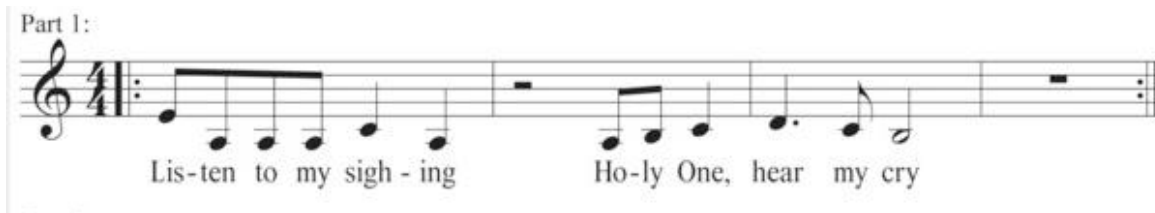
Luke 23:32-36, 44-49

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left... And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ...

It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, while the sun's light failed, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent." And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts. But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance watching these things.

SONG

"Listen to My Sighing"



by Richard Bruxvoort Colligan. Used under CSS License #12615.

SILENCE

INSTRUMENTAL

"Prayer"

by Williard Zirk

Leigh Hjelmseth, flute

Joy Brown, Piano

*We leave in silence, but
love continues with you into the tomb of Holy Saturday...
and into resurrection.*

Room for Your Reflections

Easter at First Congregational Church

*Often it seems like we're in the midst of extremes,
but there is so much in between where God meets us.
Come together this Lent to meet God and each other in between.*

Easter Sunrise, **April 20, 6:30 am** at Bloedel Donovan Park
Easter Sunday, **April 20, 10:00 am**



⁺All prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT: *A Wide Embrace* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. Inspired by Luke 23:32-49. Newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing.

In this image, I referenced the Christ the Redeemer statue Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, drawing Jesus' dying position into a posture of warm embrace. I omitted his face in order to focus merely on his arms stretched wide. I repeated this pattern four times, which formed the shape of an open cross. As I worked, I realized the image resembles a cross crosslet, which carries as many varied meanings as the crucifix itself. In this image, my intention is to thwart the brutality and violence of the crucifix with the imagery of a wide embrace, which will soon become a symbol of death-defying resistance.

Open and Affirming (ONA): As an Open and Affirming congregation believing in a loving God, all people are welcome in this church without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic or social status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

We Try To Use Language which will help people feel included in our worship. Since not everyone is comfortable with the same language, we invite you to amend the words of the service as we sing and pray if they do not adequately express your faith. We invite you to assist us in creating new expressions of our common faith and life together.

Technical Support: If you need help streaming our worship services or connecting in other ways, please let us know.

APPOINTMENTS WITH PASTORAL STAFF

Our pastor is available by appointment virtually or in person. Contact her by email or call the pastoral care line, 360-733-4255.

Sharon **sharon@fccb.net**

You can also email our Office Manager
Cydne at **office@fccb.net**
and she'll pass your message on.

*During Lent, all prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

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9 am-5 pm, M, T, F & 1:00-5:00 pm W, Th

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CHAPLAIN: Charlene Epp

CHURCH SCHOOL COORDINATOR:

Josh Marchand, they/them

ORGANIST: Judy Widrig, she/her

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PAST MODERATOR: Scott Ward, he/him

CLERK: Janet Malley, she/her

TREASURER: Craig Jennings

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