

Memorial United Methodist Church At-Home Worship
Good Friday, April 10, 2020

I'm so glad you're taking this opportunity to participate in worship with us. While we are not gathering in the sanctuary, I trust and believe, we are gathered together with God in spirit and in truth.
—*Pastor Cathy Rafferty*

We Gather to Worship God

Welcome and Opening Prayer

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, each one, to our own way.
And God has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

Hold us close, compassionate God, for you know how hard it is to hear once more of Jesus' betrayal and abandonment, of the brutality and abuse, the suffering and pain, the injustice and arrogance, and finally, the violent execution. We have known the reality of these things in our own lives, in our own times. We have lived in ways that have brought harm to others. We have participated in the intolerance of our religions, and the injustice of our societies, even to this day. We have gone astray, and we are acquainted with death and loss and grief. Yet still we come to you on this Good Friday, once more to watch and to witness, to experience the depth of your love and the breadth of your grace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Music to Center Ourselves: *"He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word"* Debbie Hubbard

We Share the Story of God in Three Letters

Sharing from the Gospel: John 19:17-18, 26-27 Tracy Jensen

First Letter, from the Beloved Disciple Ethan Jensen

Sharing from the Gospel: Luke 23:33-38, 44-47 Jan Johnson

Second Letter, from the Centurion Gary Johnson

Sharing from the Gospel: Mark 15:40-47 Leslie Nault

Third Letter, from a Child Sylvia Nault

A time of prayerful reflection.

The Word in Music: "Were You There" Debbie Hubbard

We Respond to God

Intercessory Prayer

Christ, our Good Shepherd, by your cross and resurrection, you have led us into life everlasting. We pray today for all who walk through the valley of the shadow of death ... Lord,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, our Brother, we pray for all who are lonely, without family or friends; we pray for those with broken relationships and bitter feelings; and for the widows, the orphans, and the outcast in our world today ... Lord,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, our Savior, we pray for all whose work is drudgery, whose spirits are wounded by what they must do, whose souls are compromised and whose hearts are hardened; we pray for all who long for forgiveness and for those who know not what they do ... Lord,

Hear our prayer.

Christ, O Lamb of God, we pray for the innocent, for the bewildered and confused, for the childlike and the childish; we long for green pastures and still waters, for your peaceable kingdom come ... Lord

Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

As we conclude tonight's time of worship on this second of the three days, the Triduum, the invitation is for us to respond by continuing to watch and wait, prayerfully pondering these events, remembering Jesus laid in the tomb, remembering those who wait through the long and lonely days and nights, until the Easter dawn.

Departing Prayer

Light of the World, even as we hear your body has been placed in the tomb, we affirm that the darkness will not overcome us, death will not be the final word for the Word made flesh. While we ponder your suffering and death, we also wait for the dawning of your resurrection. May your Spirit wait with us, calling us to rise to newness of life on the coming Easter morning. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

To prayerful ponder, discuss, or do:

- Does one of the readings, events, or symbols of tonight invite your attention? Sit with it, write or draw, find a token around your home to remind you of it.
- Imagine yourself to be one of the participants in the biblical story, or a witness to it. Write a letter to another participant, or someone you imagine, about what you experience.
- Write a letter from your perspective today to someone in your past, present, or future about what you are experiencing, thinking, and feeling on this peculiar Good Friday.