

Good Friday Service

7 PM

April 3, 2026

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ  
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor  
Louis Allison, Tech Director  
Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

April 3, 2026

7:00 PM

**Good Friday**

*Thank you for worshipping with us today. If you are a guest, we invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.*

*We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy in the side narthex! Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!*

**PRELUDE**

*This Lamb Alone*

by Rhodes

**OPENING REFLECTION**

**GRASPING IN THE GARDEN**

**OPENING LITANY: THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH**

*(Psalm 23 woven with Good Friday)*

P: The Lord is my shepherd—and yet, the path has led us here.

**C: Into the valley of the shadow of death.**

P: Where the light feels dim, and the road is uncertain,

**C: Into the valley of the shadow of death.**

P: Even here, where fear rises in our chest,

**C: We are not alone.**

P: Even here, where courage falters and hearts begin to wander,

**C: We are not alone.**

P: The Shepherd walks this road with us—

**C: Through betrayal, through silence, through suffering.**

P: Through the garden, through the trial, through the cross—

**C: Through the valley of the shadow of death.**

P: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us—

**C: Even here.**

P: Let us receive God's Word as our wandering hearts move closer to the valley of the shadow of death with Christ.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*John 18:1-11 (NRSVUE)*

**DIALOGUE: PETER AND THE VOICE—IN THE GARDEN**

**PRAYER OF REFLECTION**

P: Together let us pray, God of the garden,

**C: we confess how quickly fear takes hold. When the road grows uncertain and the valley deepens, we grasp for control. We reach for whatever we can hold. Teach us to trust you even when we do not understand. Stay with us in the shadow, and do not let us go. Amen.**

P: Even here in the garden, the valley of the shadow of death stretches before us. As we struggle to control what we cannot hold, let us join our voices in song to Christ.

**HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 226 NCH** (black hymnal, see below)

*O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*

# O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

Gilbert M Martin, Hans Leo Hassler

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**Piano**  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. O sa - cred Head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed  
 2. What you, dear Sav - ior, suf - fered was all for sin - ners'  
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank you, dear - est

5  
 down, Now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, your on - ly  
 gain; Mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but yours the dead - ly  
 friend; For this our dy - ing sor - row, your pit - y with out

9  
 crown, How pale you are with an - guish with sore a - buse and  
 pain. Lo, here I fall, my Sav - ior, for I de - serve your  
 end? May I be yours for - ev - er; and though my days be

13  
 scorn! How does your vis - age lan - guish which once was bright as  
 place; Look on me with your fa - vor, O grant to me your  
 few. O Sav - ior let me nev - er out - live my live for

17  
 morn!  
 grace.  
 you!

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## DRIFTING BY THE FIRE

### LITANY: THE VALLEY DEEPENS

L: Even as I walk through the valley of the shadow of death—

**C: the path grows dim.**

L: The fire burns in the distance—

**C: but we do not draw near.**

L: We follow—but only so far—

**C: keeping space between us and the truth.**

L: We linger at the edge of the light—

**C: like sheep who have lost the Shepherd's voice.**

L: The question comes quietly—

**C: "Are you one of them?"**

L: And the answer trembles—

**C: "I am not."**

L: Even here—

**C: we are not alone.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

*John 18:12-18 (NRSVUE)*

### DIALOGUE # 2: PETER AND THE VOICE—AT THE FIRE

### PRAYER OF REFLECTION

L: Together let us pray, God of the firelight,

**C: we confess how easily fear quiets our voices. We draw near, and then we pull away. We follow, but only so far. When we are asked who we are, and whose we are, our wandering hearts falter. Give us courage when fear tells us to hide. Hold us close even when we distance ourselves from you. Amen.**

L: We follow at a distance—and still, the valley stretches on. Let us listen.

### WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

by Massa

## BREAKING IN THE SHADOWS

### LITANY: THE VALLEY DEEPENS FURTHER

P: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death—

**C: the night closes in.**

P: The voice we once followed—

**C: we no longer recognize.**

P: The Shepherd calls—

**C: and we turn away.**

P: The question comes again—

**C: "Are you one of them?"**

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

P: And again—

**C: “I am not.”**

P: Even here—

**C: we are not alone.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

*John 18:19-27 (NRSVUE)*

## DIALOGUE #3: PETER AND THE VOICE: A WANDERING HEART FRAGMENTED

## PASSPORT REFLECTION

## PRAYER OF REFLECTION

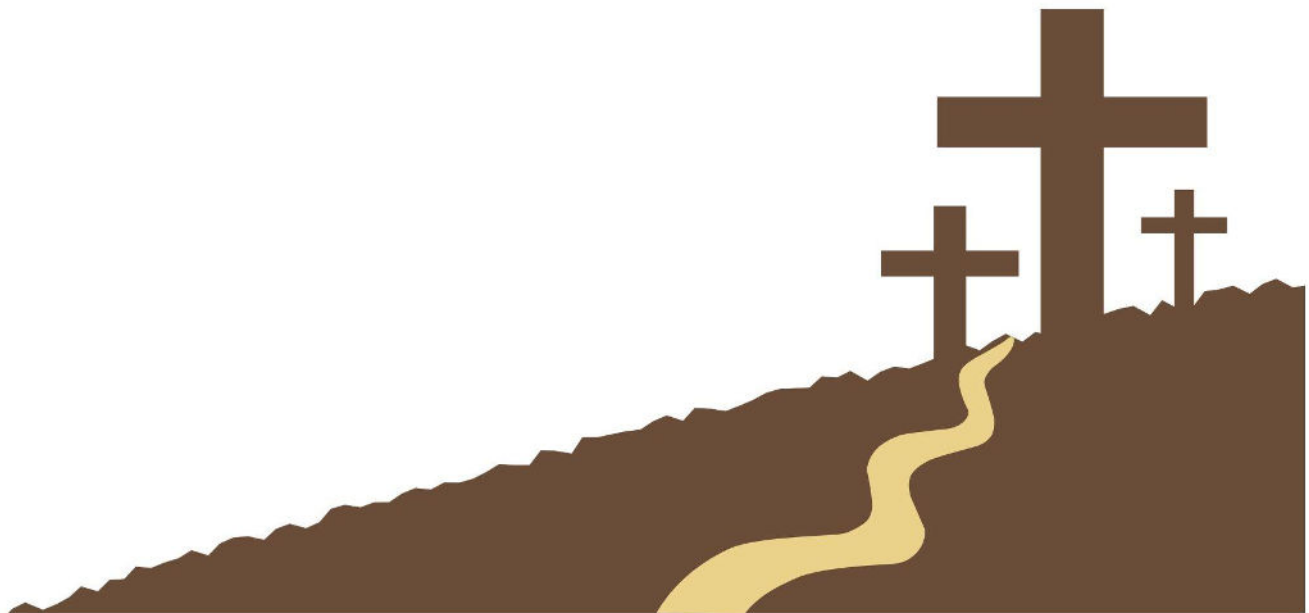
P: Now, together let us pray, God of the shadow,

**C: we confess how easily we lose ourselves. What begins in fear becomes distance.**

**What begins in hesitation becomes denial. We turn away from the voice that calls us, from the love that names us. And sometimes—we do not even notice. Hold us in this valley. Find us when we are lost. And do not let us go. Amen.**

**HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 218 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

*Ah, Holy Jesus*



\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Ah, Holy Jesus

Johann Heermann, 1630

Johann Cruger, 1640

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how have you of - fend - ed, that mor - tal  
2. Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on you? It is my  
3. For me, kind Je - sus, was your in - car - na - tion, your mor - tal  
4. There - fore kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay you, I do a -

6

judgment has on you de - scend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed, by your own re -  
treason, Je - sus, that has slain you. And I, dear Je - sus, I it was de -  
sor - row, and your life's o - bla - tion, Your death of an - guish and your bit - ter  
- dore you, and will ev - er pray you, Think on your pit - y and our love un -

12

- ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!  
- nied you; I cru - ci - fied you.  
pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
- swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

## STANDING IN THE SHADOW OF THE VALLEY OF DEATH

### FINAL LITANY: THE VALLEY FULFILLED

L: Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death—

**C: the shadow of the cross still makes me pause.**

L: We turn away—

**C: and say, “I was not there.”**

L: The valley deepens—

**C: and we cannot follow.**

L: But God does not turn away—

**C: God goes there.**

L: The Shepherd walks into the valley—

**C: and does not leave.**

L: The Lamb is given—

**C: and we do not understand.**

L: Even here—

**C: The Shepherd is present.**

L: Surely goodness and mercy will follow—

**C: even here.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

*John 19:1-30 (NRSVUE)*

### DIALOGUE #4: PETER AND THE VOICE (ABSENCE)

### PRAYER OF REFLECTION

L: Together let us pray, God of the cross,

**C: we confess the places we cannot go. The suffering we turn from. The truth we cannot bear. The love that asks more than we can give. And still—you go there. Stay with us in this shadow. Hold us in this valley. And make our wandering hearts brave. Amen.**

### HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 229 NCH (black hymnal, see next page)

*Were You There?*

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# Were You There

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1872

Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 3. Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?  
 4. Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

Were you there when they  
 Were you there when they  
 Were you there when God  
 Were you there when Christ

Were you there?

7

cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 nailed him to the tree?  
 wept at Mar - y's cry?  
 rose up from the tomb?

O sometimes it causes me to tremble,

Were you there?

14

tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?  
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?  
 Were you there when God wept at Mar - y's cry?  
 Were you there when Christ rose up from the tomb?

there?

Were you there?

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

**LISTENING FOR THE NEXT LINE**

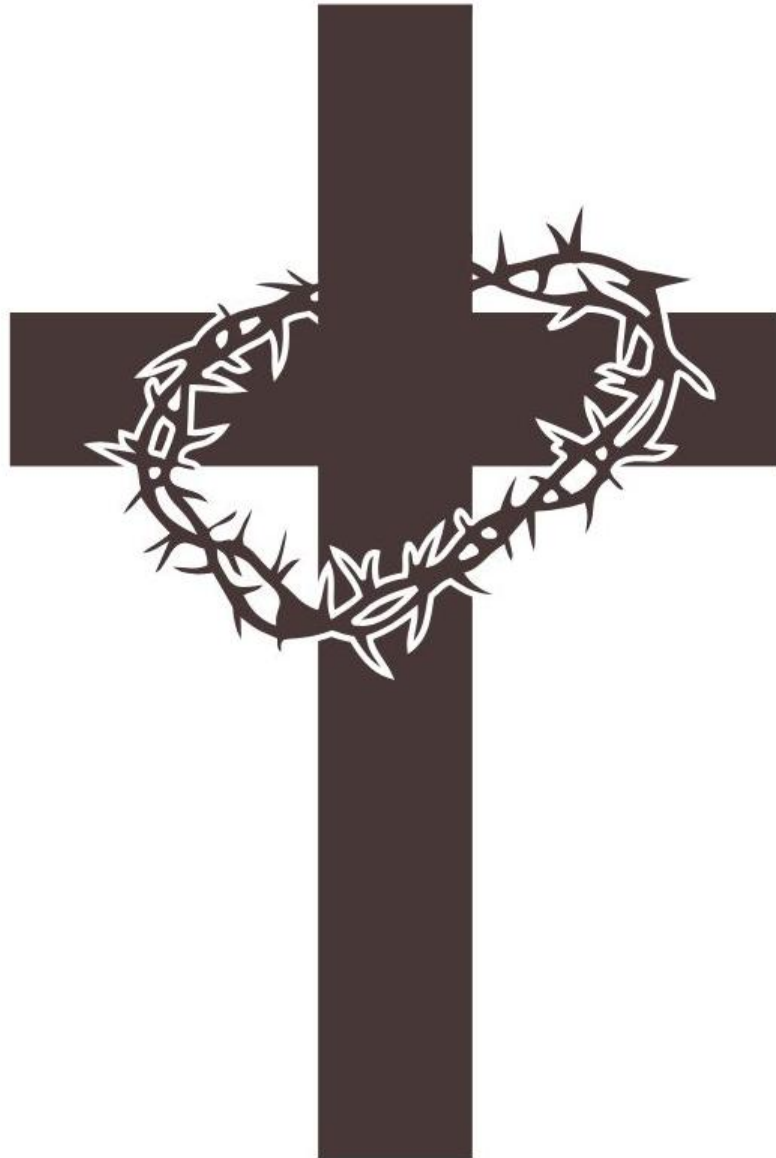
**POEM<sup>1</sup>**

*The Next Line*

Rev. Sarah Speed

**SENDING HYMN NO. 223 NCH** (black hymnal, see next page)

*What Wondrous Love is This*



\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

# What Wondrous Love Is This

\*Music reproduced and licensed under One License #A-725030.

$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What won-drous love is  
 2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the  
 3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm

7

this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this! that Christ should come in bliss to  
 Lamb, I will sing; on! To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am, while  
 free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and

14

bear the heav-y cross for my soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!  
 mil-lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing!  
 through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

21

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

<sup>1</sup>Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Thank you to the worship choir for enhancing the worship service with their talents this evening!

**Welcome Team Members**— Elliot & Maggie Stine

**Liturgist**— Tori Everhart

**Dialogue Readers**— Deb & Jack Herlocker

**Poem Reader**— Cindy Hogentogler

**Tech Team**— Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker, Joseph Vacante

\*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.