

March 29, 2024
Ecumenical Good Friday Worship

*This is a shared worship experience with
Waupun United Methodist Church
(Pastor Steve Miller)
and Union-Congregational Church
(Pastor Jacob Nault)*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.
Thank you for joining us.*

Gathering Music

Sue Stelsel

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Jacob

Call to Worship

One: We join together this day to remember Jesus' suffering.

All: What wondrous love our Savior has for us.

One: Our souls ache as we remember his sacrifice.

All: This is an unimaginable act, which we so often believe we don't deserve.

One: Still, even through all of this, we find hope that we can be together on this day of grieving.

All: Holy Spirit, be with us in our remembering, and in our repenting.

Opening Hymn: W&R #283 Were You There

Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy God, we come to bear witness to the suffering and death of the one you sent to save us. Hold us in your presence as we approach the cross. Fill us with your passion as we proclaim the gospel. Use us as your people as we pray for the world. Bless us with your peace as we depart in silence. Keep us in your promise as we await the dawn. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Psalm 22: 1-18 (New Living Translation)

1 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why are you so far away when I groan for help?

2 Every day I call to you, my God, but you do not answer.

Every night I lift my voice, but I find no relief.

3 Yet you are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

4 Our ancestors trusted in you,

and you rescued them.

5 They cried out to you and were saved.

They trusted in you and were never disgraced.

6 But I am a worm and not a man.

I am scorned and despised by all!

7 Everyone who sees me mocks me.

They sneer and shake their heads, saying,

8 "Is this the one who relies on the Lord?"

Then let the Lord save him!

If the Lord loves him so much,

let the Lord rescue him!"

9 Yet you brought me safely from my mother's womb

and led me to trust you at my mother's breast.

10 I was thrust into your arms at my birth.

You have been my God from the moment I was born.

11 Do not stay so far from me,

for trouble is near,

and no one else can help me.

- 12 My enemies surround me like a herd of bulls;
fierce bulls of Bashan have hemmed me in!
- 13 Like lions they open their jaws against me,
roaring and tearing into their prey.
- 14 My life is poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart is like wax,
melting within me.
- 15 My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay.
My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.
You have laid me in the dust and left me for dead.
- 16 My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs;
an evil gang closes in on me.
They have pierced my hands and feet.
- 17 I can count all my bones.
My enemies stare at me and gloat.
- 18 They divide my garments among themselves
and throw dice for my clothing.

Hymn: W&R #366 And Can It Be

Psalm 22: 19-26 (New Living Translation)

- 19 O Lord, do not stay far away!
You are my strength; come quickly to my aid!
- 20 Save me from the sword;
spare my precious life from these dogs.
- 21 Snatch me from the lion's jaws
and from the horns of these wild oxen.
- 22 I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters.
I will praise you among your assembled people.
- 23 Praise the Lord, all you who fear him!
Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob!
Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!
- 24 For he has not ignored or belittled the suffering of the needy.
He has not turned his back on them,
but has listened to their cries for help.
- 25 I will praise you in the great assembly.
I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.
- 26 The poor will eat and be satisfied.
All who seek the Lord will praise him.
Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

Instrumental for Silent Meditation

Sue Stelsel

The Passion according to John

Message

Pastor Steve

Benediction

Pastor Jacob: May you go from this place and give thanks for your Savior's great love for you.

Pastor Steve: May you find the strength to praise God at all times, even as trouble is near.

Pastor Jacob: May the God who created you, the Savior who died for you, and the Holy Spirit who surrounds you, comfort you now, in these days of grief.

Both: Amen.

Media Song: "To Make You Feel My Love" by Adele

The people of God depart in silence.

*Today's Opening Prayer is from **Connections Worship Companion: Year B, Volume 1**,
©2023 Westminster John Knox Press, p. 150.*