

Good Friday

April 18, 2025 • 7:00 PM

THE WAY
OF THE CROSS:
a Journey of Justice



an Open & Affirming congregation

Prelude

“Passion Chorale”

Welcome & Call to the People

Leader: On this solemn night, we walk the way of suffering with Jesus—

People: And with all who suffer in our world today.

Leader: We hear the cries of the oppressed, the condemned, the forsaken—

People: And we will not turn away.

Leader: In the shadow of the cross, we lament, we turn our hearts toward justice, we stand in solidarity.

People: Trusting that death does not have the final word.

Hymn

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

New Century Hymnal
Tune: HERZLIEBSTER JESU

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 -

judg - ment has on you de - scend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
trea - son, Je - sus, that has slain you. And I, dear Je - sus,
sor - row, and your life's ob - la - tion, Your death of an - guish
dore you, and will ev - er pray you, Think on your pit - y

by your own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed!
I it was de - nied you; I cru - ci - fied you.
and your bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.
and your love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

Prayer of Acknowledgment

Leader: Merciful God, on this night of sorrow,
we come before you with heavy hearts.
We acknowledge that we have often turned away
from the suffering of others.

**People: Forgive us, O God,
and lead us in your ways of justice and peace.**

Leader: When we have remained silent in the face of injustice,
when we have chosen comfort over courage—

**People: Forgive us, O God,
and strengthen us to speak truth.**

Leader: When we have judged instead of listened,
excluded instead of embraced—

**People: Forgive us, O God,
and teach us to love as Christ loves.**

Leader: When we have seen the suffering of the world
and believed we could do nothing—

**People: Forgive us, O God,
and awaken in us the power of compassion.**

Leader: When we have walked away from those carrying heavy burdens,
when we have ignored the cries of the oppressed—

**People: Forgive us, O God,
and call us back to the way of the cross.**

Leader: Christ, who bore the weight of injustice, Christ, who suffered for love,
Christ, who walks with the weary—

People: Have mercy on us. Renew us. Transform us.

Leader: Even in the shadow of the cross, your grace is at work.
Even in darkness, you are near.
Even in our failure, your mercy abounds.

People: Thanks be to God, whose love is stronger than our sin. Amen.

Music

“Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless”

THE WAY OF THE CROSS: *a Journey of Justice*

I - JESUS IS CONDEMNED: The Injustice of the World

Scripture - Matthew 26:36-50, 57-60a
and Matthew 27:1-2, 15-26

Jason Keune

Reflection

Rev. Mia White

Silent Reflection (silence ends with the ringing of a bell)

Congregational Response

Leader: Christ was condemned, though innocent.

**People: We remember those who are unjustly accused and imprisoned,
those who are silenced and ignored, and we cry out for justice.**

Anthem

“When Jesus Wept”

Billings/Parker and Shaw

II - JESUS IS BEATEN & BURDENED: The Violence of Oppression

Scripture - Matthew 27:27-32

Sheila Merrell

Reflection

Joyce Haynes McCowan

Silent Reflection (silence ends with the ringing of a bell)

Congregational Response

Leader: Christ carried the cross, weighed down
by the suffering of the world.

**People: We remember those who carry heavy burdens today
and stand in solidarity, helping to bear their load.**

Anthem

“Wondrous Love”

arr. Parker and Shaw

III - JESUS MEETS THE PEOPLE: The Cry for Justice

Scripture - Luke 23:27-32, 39-43

David Piston

Reflection

Rev. Mia White

Silent Reflection (silence ends with the ringing of a bell)

Congregational Response

Leader: Jesus listened to the voices of the suffering.

People: May we hear the cries of those seeking justice today.

Hymn

“Were You There”

New Century Hymnal

Tune: WERE YOU THERE

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

O some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.

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

IV - JESUS IS CRUCIFIED: The Suffering of the World

Scripture - Mark 15:22-31 & John 19:25b-27

Marty Black

Reflection

Joyce Haynes McCowan

Silent Reflection (silence ends with the ringing of a bell)

Congregational Response

Leader: At the cross, grief and love meet.

People: We remember all who suffer and mourn.

Anthem

“God so Loved the World”

John Stainer

V - JESUS DIES & IS BURIED: The Long Road to Resurrection

Scripture - Mark 15:33-47

Paul Black

Reflection

Rev. Mia White

Moment of Solidarity & Reflection

*During the anthem ushers will pass cups of sour wine down the pews.
Hold onto your cup until Pastor Mia invites us to drink.*

Anthem

“Total Praise”

Richard Smallwood

When the lights come back up, leave when you are ready.
There is nothing more for you here.

Today and tomorrow we stand in the sacred space
between sorrow and joy, between the cross and the empty tomb.
This is a time of deep reflection and reverence—
a time to honor the pain and loss that are part of our human story
and Christ's journey.

But the story is not over.

We invite you to return and celebrate the hope and joy of Easter Sunday.
Our Easter worship will be filled with music, scripture, prayer, and reflection
as we rejoice in the promise of new life and resurrection.

Following the service, we'll gather for Coffee Hour and an Easter egg hunt—
fun and fellowship for all ages. Come and share in this joyful celebration!

Easter Sunday Worship - April 20, 10:00 AM

People mentioned in this service:

Darryl Burton graduated from Saint Paul School of Theology after being released from prison and now serves as Connection & Care Pastor at Resurrection United Methodist Church Leawood location. Since 2008, he has spoken about forgiveness, redemption, and hope at churches, conferences and lectures around the globe. Learn more about his story at darrylburton.org.

Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo movement, has been working at the intersection of racial justice, arts and culture, anti-violence and gender equity for nearly three decades. She is particularly fueled by a commitment to interrupt systemic issues disproportionately impacting marginalized people, like sexual violence. Learn about her work at taranaburke.com.

Kassi and Connor Filkins were familiar to our church community when Connor was our seminary intern in 2018-19. After Connor graduated from Eden Seminary they married and moved to Ohio. They welcomed their daughter, Daphne Jean, in October 2024, who died unexpectedly due to complications of open heart surgery in January 2025. Follow their journey and support their cause at daphnesbraveheart.org and kassifilkins.substack.com.
(Story shared with Kassi's and Connor's permission)

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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