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**MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**Good Friday**

**April 3, 2026**  
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PRELUDE:

"Were You There?"

Rasley

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.

That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we, who glory in this death for our salvation, may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE REPROACHES:

CHRIST'S LAMENT AGAINST HIS FAITHLESS CHURCH

Leader: O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me! I led you out of Egypt, from slavery to freedom, but you led your Savior to the cross.

Response: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Leader: For forty years I led you through the desert and fed you with manna from heaven; I brought you into a land of plenty, but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I planted you as my fairest vineyard, but you yielded only bitterness. When I was thirsty, you gave me vinegar to drink, and you pierced your Savior's side with a spear.

Response: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I went before you in a pillar of cloud, but you led me to the judgment hall of Pilate. I scourged your enemies and gave you a royal scepter, but you have struck my head with a reed and crowned me with thorns.

Response: Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

Leader: I lifted you up to high honor, but you have lifted me high upon the cross. O my people, what have I done to you? Answer me.

Response: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have often stood among the crowd, silent while injustice was shouted. We have washed our hands of the suffering of others. We have preferred our comfort to your truth. We have denied you in our neighbors and betrayed you in our hearts. In the shadow of the cross, reveal to us our brokenness, and by your wounds, heal us. Amen.

SILENCE**THE SEVEN LAST WORDS & THE VOICES****The First Word: (The Roman Soldier) Luke 23:34**

Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

(The first candle is extinguished. Silence.)

The Second Word: (The Penitent) Luke 23:43

Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

(The second candle is extinguished. Silence.)

The Third Word: (The Beloved Disciple) John 19:26–27

When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

(The third candle is extinguished. Silence.)

The Fourth Word: (The Narrator) Mark 15:34

And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

(The fourth candle is extinguished. Two minutes of silence.)

HYMN: 286*“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”*

vs 1-3

The Fifth Word: (Simon of Cyrene) John 19:28

Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”

(The fifth candle is extinguished. Silence.)

