

The Worship of God

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church
GOOD FRIDAY | 7:00 PM | March 29, 2024

Gather in silence.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence
Associate Minister

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Lawrence and **People**

We give our thanks and praise to Jesus Christ
who carries our sorrows,
heals our wounds,
and redeems us from death.

*HYMN 286

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

A BIDDING PRAYER

based on Psalm 22:1-15

Ministers and **People**

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross
so that he might draw the whole world to himself.

For the times and situations when we cry out, "Where are you God?"

Silence.

Lord, you are merciful.

My God, you are.

For the persons in this church community—their joys, and their grief...

Silence.

Lord, you are merciful.

My God, you are.

For the community...

Silence.

Lord, you are merciful.

My God, you are.

For the world...

Silence.

Lord you are merciful.

My God, you are.

For church leaders...

Silence.
Lord you are merciful.
My God, you are.

For the people who, over the years, have invited us to sit at their feet, the ones who have helped us grow into the people we have become. We give you thanks for the ways that we have been allowed to soak in their wisdom.

Silence.
Lord you are merciful.
My God, you are.

*HYMN 301

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

NEAR THE CROSS

SCRIPTURE

John 18:15-27

The Rev. Drew West and **People**
Assistant Minister of Families and Children

¹⁵ Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶ but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷ The woman said to Peter, "You are not also one of this man's disciples, are you?" He said, "I am not." ¹⁸ Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

¹⁹ Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰ Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret." ²¹ Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said." ²² When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, "Is that how you answer the high priest?" ²³ Jesus answered, "If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?" ²⁴ Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵ Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, "You are not also one of his disciples, are you?" He denied it and said, "I am not." ²⁶ One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Did I not see you in the garden with him?" ²⁷ Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The Rev. Kaylen Short and **People**
Senior Minister

Jesus said: "Will you lay down your life for me?
Very truly, I tell you, before the cock crows,
you will have denied me three times." — John 13:38

Lord, we have denied you,
Each time we refused to see you in the faces of the hungry and the homeless.
May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

Lord we have betrayed you,
Each time we have kept our distance
from the anguish of the oppressed and the persecuted.
May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

Lord we have mocked you,
Each time we have pretended we do not know how radically you call us to live.
May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

Lord we are lost and have strayed,
Welcome us into your forgiving arms and make us new.
May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

All merciful One, God of infinite love and compassion, though we have strayed, you have never abandoned us. In this season of repentance, we come confessing our sins and reaching out for the healing power of your forgiveness. Through Christ our Lord, give us renewed and truthful hearts that will follow you in all of our ways.
Amen.

***HYMN 294**

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

MARTYRDOM

SCRIPTURE

John 19:1-42

Rev. Lawrence

THE REPROACHES: CHRIST'S LAMENT AGAINST HIS FAITHLESS CHURCH

Ministers and **People**

O my people, O my Church,
what have I done to you, or in what have I offended you?
I led you forth from the land of Egypt
and delivered you by the waters of baptism,
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior.

Response: United Methodist Book of Worship Hymn



I led you through the desert forty years and fed you with manna;
I brought you through times of persecution and of renewal
and gave you my body, the bread of heaven;
but you have prepared a cross for your Savior. **Response**

I made you branches of my vineyard
and gave you the water of salvation,
but when I was thirsty you gave me vinegar and gall
and pierced with a spear the side of your Savior. **Response**

I went before you in a pillar of cloud,
but you have led me to the judgment hall of Pilate.
I brought you to a land of freedom and prosperity,
but you have scourged, mocked, and beaten me. **Response**

My peace I gave, which the world cannot give,
and washed your feet as a servant,
but you draw the sword to strike in my name
and seek high places in my kingdom. **Response**

I accepted the cup of suffering and death for your sakes,
but you scatter and deny and abandon me.
I sent the Spirit of truth to lead you,
but you close your hearts to guidance. **Response**

I called you to go and bring forth fruit,
but you cast lots for my clothing.
I prayed that you all may be one,
but you continue to quarrel and divide. **Response**

I came to you as the least of your brothers and sisters.
I was hungry but you gave me no food,
thirsty but you gave me no drink.
I was a stranger but you did not welcome me,
naked but you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison but you did not visit me. **Response**

Silence.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Lawrence and People

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

All depart in silence.

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

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AA Meetings: Sundays 3 PM; Mondays 7 PM;
Wednesdays through Saturdays 7 PM
NA Meeting: Thursdays and Saturdays 7 PM

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