



Good Friday

Ames United Church of Christ
March 30, 2018 at 7 p.m.

ABOUT TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Good Friday commemorates the execution of Jesus in the most painful and shaming manner practiced by the Roman Empire. The use of the word "good" to denote such a day is misleading: it came into use over time through jumbled cross-cultural translations of "holy" and "God."

Our musicians tonight are Ben Schrag (who wrote two of the pieces), Barbara Fisher, and Mark Kretsinger-Harries. Pr. Eileen Gebbie offers a reflection and Pr. Hannah Hannover leads us in prayer. Our greeters are Barbara Faidley, Gina Handy, Melia Handy, and our deacon is Pat Spangler.

GATHER IN SILENCE

MUSIC "Laid to Waste," based on Isaiah 24

LITANY

One: Judas, slave of jealousy, where are you?

Many: I am here.

One: Peter, slave of fear, where are you?

Many: I am here.

One: Pilate, slave of Empire, where are you?

Many: I am here.

One: The story of the execution of Jesus is the story of our own weakness and shortcomings, as people who have missed the mark on justice and so have alienated ourselves from God and neighbor. So tonight as we sit at the foot of the cross, we seek the ones who remained, who did not falter in devotion or love.

One: Mary, mother of Jesus, where are you?

Many: I am here.

GOSPEL Luke 1:46-55, The Magnificat
(New Revised Standard Version,
modified for inclusive language)

Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of this servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is The Name. The Lord's mercy is for those who know God from generation to generation. The Lord has shown strength as with an arm: scattering the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; The Lord has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. God has helped the servant Israel, in remembrance of all mercy, according to the promise made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

HYMN "My Song is Love Unknown" (insert)

GOSPEL John 19:16-30 (New Revised Standard Version)

Gospel means "good news," making the full title of this book of the Bible "The Good News of Jesus Christ according to John."

Then (Pilate) handed him over...to be crucified.

So (the Roman soldiers) took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There (the Roman soldiers) crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.' Many of the (local authorities and police) read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. Then the chief priests of the

(Temple) said to Pilate, 'Do not write, "The King of the Jews", but, "This man said, I am King of the Jews."' Pilate answered, 'What I have written I have written.'

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it.' This was to fulfil what the scripture says,

'They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots.'

And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfil the scripture), 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, 'It is finished.' Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

LITANY

One: Mary,

Many: is this your son Jesus hanging on the cross?

One: Mary,

Many: does your soul still magnify the Lord?

One: Mary,

Many: does your spirit yet rejoice in God?

One: Mary,

Many: where is God's favor now?

One: Mary,

Many: how can we call you blessed when surely you are deserted?

One: Mary,

Many: is God's mercy gone?

One: Mary,

**Many: tonight the powerful are comfortable and laughing
while the weak are tear-soaked and frightened.**

One: Mary,

Many: tonight your child is dead.

MUSIC "Why Must I Go Unto the Gates of Death," based on Isaiah 38:10-18

HOMILY

HYMN "O Jesus, I Have Promised" (insert)

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: It is now time for us to leave this place. Let us commend ourselves into the care of each other, and to that sacred creativity we name as 'God'. In God, Source of Life

**Many: our deaths are not the final word,
our moments of crisis are part of eternal possibility,
and our weakness is taken up into the courage of God.**

One: As followers of Jesus of the Way,

**Many: our humanness is touched with divine life,
our tears are mingled with longing love,
and our solidarity with those who suffer
is joined by divine presence.**

One: In the Spirit of Creativity,

**Many: there are no boundaries on the dream,
there is no end to hope,
and we will never live beyond the cherishing of God.**

HYMN "Were You There?," hymn 229, verses 1-3

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

This candle was lit for the first time on Christmas Eve. It cannot shine now.

RECESS

There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning's resurrection. Please depart in silence.

RETURN EASTER MORNING

Dawn Easter Worship

April 1 at 7 a.m. at Reiman Gardens

Ecumenical service at Reiman Gardens (1407 S University Blvd) with First United Methodist, First Christian Church, and Ames UCC. Pr. Fred Lewis will be preaching and this will be his final ecumenical service before retiring in June.

Regular Easter Worship

April 1 at 10:30 a.m. at Ames UCC

Our regular service of celebration and proclamation at Ames UCC: He is Risen!
He is still Rising, Indeed! Alleluia!

Be In Touch with Ames UCC

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Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

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