

St. Stephen's



United Methodist Church

**SERVICE OF THE NAILS WITH TENEBRAE
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022 AT 7:00P.M.**

GATHERING MUSIC

Largo by Handel
Andante by Schubert

Trio + 1

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

Pastor Rob

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *based upon Isaiah 52:13-15 NRSV*

Pastor Rob

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you

One: See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high.
Just as there were many who were astonished at him--so marred was his appearance,
beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals-- so he shall startle
many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been
told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

***HYMN**

Go to Dark Gethsemane
CCLI#2783729

UMH#290, vs. 1&3

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Calvary's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn of Jesus Christ to die.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Pastor Jiyeon

O merciful God, you did not spare your only Son, but offered him up for us all, that he might bear our sins upon the cross. Grant that we might so examine ourselves that we realize our own sinfulness, so great as to spiritually crucify him anew. Help us to recognize those nails which we drive into his cross today, and transform us into more faithful disciples in his name. Amen.

HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This
CCLI# 719998

UMH# 292, vs. 1

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

THE NAILS OF THE CROSS

THE NAIL OF PRIDE

Mark 12:38-40 NRSV

Pastor Forrest

38 As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, 39 and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! 40 They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

Extinguishing The First Light

Sung Response

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

One: O God, help us consider our own pride and where it leads.

All: **O God, do not let us deceive ourselves.**

Our pride hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

One: O God, we know too that our pride hurts you.

THE NAIL OF BETRAYAL

Matthew 26:47-56 NRSV

Pastor Jiyeon

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. 48 Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." 49 At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. 50 Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. 51 Suddenly, one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" 55 At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. 56 But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Extinguishing The Second Light

Sung Response

Were you there when he walked the road alone?

Were you there when he walked the road alone?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when he walked the road alone?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

One: O God - help us consider how we betray others, how we abandon them in their time of need, how we think of ourselves first.

All: **O God - do not let us deceive ourselves.**

Our acts of betrayal hurt us and create walls between us and others.

One: O God, we know too that our betrayal hurts you.

THE NAIL OF ENVY

Matthew 20:20-28 NRSV

Pastor Rob

20 Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. 21 And he said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom." 22 But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are able." 23 He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father." 24 When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. 25 But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. 26 It will not be so among you; but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Extinguishing The Third Light

Sung Response

Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they stripped him of his clothes?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

One: O God - help us consider how we envy others, how we desire more than we receive and seek to influence and rule over others.

All: O God - do not let us deceive ourselves. Our envy hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

One: O God, we know too that our envy hurts you.

THE NAIL OF INDECISION

Matthew 27:20-24 NRSV

Pastor Forrest

20 Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed. 21 The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!" 23 Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!" 24 So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."

Extinguishing The Fourth Light

Sung Response

Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they nailed him to the cross?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

One: O God, help us consider how we waver, how we seek to avoid responsibility and to blame others for our actions.

All: O God, do not let us deceive ourselves. Our indecision hurts us and creates walls between us and others.

One: O God, we know too that our indecision hurts you.

THE NAIL OF CRUELTY

Matthew 27:27-31, 39-42 NRSV

Pastor Jiyeon

27 Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

39 Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads 40 and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!" 41 In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 42 "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.

Extinguishing The Fifth Light

Sung Response

Were you there when they mocked the son of God?

Were you there when they mocked the son of God?

Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;

Were you there when they mocked the son of God?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

One: O God, help us consider how we are cruel to others, how we malign and slander others and add to the evil that comes upon them.

**All: O God, do not let us deceive ourselves.
Our cruelty hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

One: O God, we know too that our cruelty hurts you.

THE NAIL OF DESPAIR

Matthew 27:45-51, 57-59

Pastor Rob

45 From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. 46 About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"). 47 When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah." 48 Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. 49 The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him." 50 And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. 51 At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split.

57 As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. 58 Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. 59 Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth.

Extinguishing Of The Final Light

Sung Response

Were you there when they killed the son of God?
Were you there when they killed the son of God?
Oh! sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble;
Were you there when they killed the son of God?

Meditation and Prayer (beginning with silence)

One: O God, help us consider how we give in to despair, how we give in when you call us to trust in you.

**All: O God, do not let us deceive ourselves.
Our despair hurts us and creates walls between us and others.**

One: O God, we know that our despair hurts you, too.

OUR SINS ON THE CROSS

***ACT OF CONFESSION** based upon Isaiah 53: 4-6

Pastor Forrest

One: Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our sorrows,
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God and afflicted.

All: But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities.

One: Upon him was the punishment that made us whole and by his bruises we are healed.

All: We have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

As the music to "Were You There" is played, the congregation is asked to come forward to receive a nail and drive it partway into the cross placed in front of the church.

*HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
CCLI# 4046897

UMH #286, vs. 1

O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown:
how pale thou art with anguish, with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish which once was bright as morn!

*STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

PLEASE DEPART IN SILENCE

You are invited to remain in the sanctuary in silence for as long as you need.

This is a time of prayer and reflection, as we recall the death and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ
that you may live full to the brim: an expansive life.

If there is anything you wish to be released from, any fault, any failing, any brokenness or sin that you wish to bury with Christ, we invite you to pray and place those broken places in your life in the tomb of Christ. On Easter morning, when we proclaim the tomb to be empty and Christ raised from the dead, those things that kept you from relationship with God and others may be proclaimed gone and forgiven as well.

Please leave in silence as we mourn the death of our Lord.

* Please stand as able

Adapted from the service "The Nails of the Cross"
By Rev. Richard J. Fairchild & Charlene E. Fairchild