

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY  
Woodridge United Methodist Church  
Friday, April 18th, 2025 Good Friday

## Music to Prepare Our Hearts

### Gathering in Silence

### Reading

Hebrews 10:16-25 (*NVSVue*)

### Greeting

**Pastor Dave:** Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree.

**Many Voices:** **That we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

**Pastor Dave:** 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.

**Many Voices:** **Amen.**

### \*Call to Worship

**Gwenn Edman:** On this holy day of remembrance, we mourn the death of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Many Voices:** **We remember Christ's love.**

**Gwenn Edman:** On this holy day of sorrow, we grieve the ways we cause God pain.

**Many Voices:** **We remember Christ's suffering.**

**Gwenn Edman:** On this holy day of grief, we acknowledge what must die within to follow Christ.

**Many Voices:** **We remember Christ's teachings.**

**Gwenn Edman:** On this holy day of reflection, we listen for God's voice.

**Many Voices:** **We will open our ears to hear, even in the silence of this day.**

### \*Hymn

"I Love the Lord"

W&S #3142

### Invocation

**Gwenn Edman:** Now we know: all is grace, all is gift. Gracious God, You give us all good things: life and love; daily bread and water that quenches our thirst; friends and faith. Most of all, in your Son, Jesus, you meet us with a love that will never let us go; you utter words of mercy and forgiveness that override the hurts, and heal our brokenness; you offer new beginnings where we had expected only dead ends. We give you thanks and praise for the mystery of your suffering love that gives us life. We give you thanks and praise that you know our weakness and hear our prayers. We give you thanks and praise that all our dying and living is held in your good keeping. Now we know: all is grace, all is gift, and all is Love.

**Many Voices:** **Amen.**

### Prayer of Confession

**Many Voices:** **We all, like sheep, have gone astray. We have all turned to our own way. We have sinned and have been the cause of Christ's suffering. Please forgive us, we pray. Remove the sins that distance us from you and from**

**those we love and care about. Remove our selfishness, our pride, our envy, and our greed. Remove from us our thoughtless acts and words that hurt one another. Remove from us the tendency to hurt others out of revenge and anger. Forgive us please. Create in us a clean heart, O Lord. And renew in us a right spirit. Amen.**

*[Silent Prayer]*

## **Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Pastor Dave:** In the name of the compassionate Christ, you are forgiven. For God has declared, "I forgive your evil ways and remember your sins no more!" Amen.

## **Scripture Readings**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 22 (*UMH #752*)

Prophetic Lesson

Isaiah 53:4-9 (*CEB*)

**Gwenn Edman:** The Word of God for the People of God.

**Many Voices: Thanks be to God.**

## **Special Music**

Carrie

## **Sermon**

### **"Good Friday Hope"**

Pastor Dave

## **The Seven Last Words**

### The First Word from the Cross:

Luke 23:33-34 (*NRSVue*)

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "**Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.**" And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

*[The first candle is extinguished].*

### The Second Word from the Cross:

Luke 23:39-43 (*NRSVue*)

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.**"

*[The second candle is extinguished].*

### The Third Word from the Cross:

John 19:25-27 (*NRSVue*)

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.

*[The third candle is extinguished].*

### The Fourth Word from the Cross:

Mark 15:33-34 (*NRSVue*)

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "**Eloi, Eloi, lemasabachthani?**" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

*[The fourth candle is extinguished].*

The Fifth Word from the Cross:

John 19:28 (NRSVue)

After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "**I am thirsty.**"

*[The fifth candle is extinguished].*

The Sixth Word from the Cross:

John 19:29-30 (NRSVue)

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.**"

*[The sixth candle is extinguished].*

The Seventh Word from the Cross:

Luke 23:45-47 (NRSVue)

While the sun's light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "**Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.**" Having said this, he breathed his last. When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

*[The last candle is extinguished].*

**\*Hymn**

"Were You There"

UMH #288

*[Stripping of the Altar]*

**\*Benediction**

**Going Forth**

*[All depart in silence].*

Easter Flower Set-up Tomorrow, Saturday, April 19th at 9:00 am  
Easter Celebration, Sunday, April 20th at 10:00 am