

Easter Schedule

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
Courtyard on Poyntz Ave

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt
Courtyard on Poyntz Ave.

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service



Seven Last Words of the Cross

First United Methodist Church
Good Friday 2024

Call To Worship

Leader: Gracious God, on this day we gather to remember with love and tears the suffering and death of Jesus of Nazareth.

People: We believe that this despised and rejected man of sorrows has borne our griefs and has been wounded for our transgressions.

Leader: We come to this worship in deep repentance for our individual sins and in recommitment of our lives to end suffering, pain, and death in all times and all places. Amen.

Call to Confession

What part of ourselves is found in the shadow of the mob that streamed to Calvary? What part of ourselves creates nails in other forms that wound our brothers and sisters and our God. Complicity, apathy, guilt oppress us and stifle our joy; let us bring our sins to God in genuine repentance and discover what God will do for us!

Prayer of Confession

Ever-living and ever-loving God how frayed our lives have become, a collection of loose ends, tarnished glories and hazy dreams. We have not kept our eyes upon your saving cross nor listened with undivided attention to your voice. We have not sought your presence among the destitute or accepted ourselves as persons for whom you died. Stretch our boundaries, stir our hearts and inflame our soul to behold you in every fragment of life, to feel you in every moment of time and to serve you in every occasion with obedience and joy. Amen.

Opening Hymn

O, how he loves you and me! O how he loves you and me! He gave his life, what more could he give? O how he love you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!

Jesus did speak from the cross, "Father forgive them" he prayed. The thief he gave heaven, he said he had thirst. O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!

Woman, this man is your son. Father, I feel so forsaken. It is now finished. Into your hands I come, O how he loves you; O how he loves me; O how he loves you and me!

Word #1

Then Jesus said, "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

Leader: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

Word #2

Jesus replies, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Leader: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

Word #3

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.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

Word #4

At three o'clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani? That is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Leader: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

Word #5

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

Leader: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

Word #6

When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

Word #7

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Leader: Lord Jesus, you gave your life for us.

People: You suffered and died that we might be made whole.

Closing Prayer In Unison

Jesus, crucified and living Savior, we are huddled together in doubt and fear like the disciples of long ago. We do not want to be separated, we do not want to be forsaken; we do not want to say "goodbyes," we do not want to follow you with a cross. We know you bid us to follow you into brokenness and death. How fearful these words make us. We also know that you have gone before us. You have faced danger and conquered doubt. As we have remembered the Good Friday events of long ago, we are brought closer to each other and feel your presence with us, because your promise abides with us. This promise we remember as we pray together in your words:

Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy kingdom come, They 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.

Closing Hymn

Were You There
UMH 288

Benediction

Postlude

The Old Rugged Cross
George Bennard
arr. by Dale Wood