

# Good Friday



First Congregational Church of Anoka  
United Church of Christ  
*an Open and Affirming Congregation*



March 29, 2024

Welcome

Psalm

Psalm 22:1-5

One: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

**Many: Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?**

One: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

**Many: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.**

One: In you our ancestors trusted;

**Many: they trusted, and you delivered them.**

One: To you they cried, and were saved;

**Many: in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**

Reading

Mark 1:1-3

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

Lighting of Candles (*during the hymn*)

Hymn

"O How Shall I Receive You" #102

**Oh how shall I receive you, how meet you on your way,  
blessed hope of every people, my hope's delight and stay?  
O Jesus, Jesus, give me now by your own pure light,  
to know what-e'er is pleasing and welcome in your sight.**

**Love caused your incarnation; love brought you unto me;  
your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty.  
O love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace  
in love, all loves excelling, our lost and fallen race.**

**You come, O Christ, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when a renewed creation your glory shall display.**

Reading

Mark 8:31a

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed.

Interlude

WTC Prelude and Fugue No. 8

J.S. Bach

*Koki Sato, Keyboardist*

*A light goes out.*

Reading

Mark 14:1-2

It was two days before the Passover and the festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the scribes were looking for a way to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him; <sup>2</sup> for they said, "Not during the festival, or there may be a riot among the people."

*A light goes out.*

Reading

Mark 14:10-11

Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. <sup>11</sup> When they heard it, they were greatly pleased, and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

*A light goes out.*

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." <sup>33</sup> He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. <sup>34</sup> And he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake." <sup>35</sup> And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. <sup>36</sup> He said, "Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want." <sup>37</sup> He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? <sup>38</sup> Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." <sup>39</sup> And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. <sup>40</sup> And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him. <sup>41</sup> He came a third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>42</sup> Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand."

*A light goes out.*

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. <sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." <sup>45</sup> So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. <sup>46</sup> Then they laid hands on him and arrested him. <sup>47</sup> But one of those who stood near drew his sword and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. <sup>48</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a bandit? <sup>49</sup> Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest

me. But let the scriptures be fulfilled." <sup>50</sup> All of them deserted him and fled.

Interlude

Piano Sonata No. 2, 1<sup>st</sup> mvmt  
Koki Sato, Keyboardist

Rachmaninoff

*A light goes out.*

Reading

Mark 14:66-72

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant-girls of the high priest came by. <sup>67</sup> When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." <sup>68</sup> But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. <sup>69</sup> And the servant-girl, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." <sup>70</sup> But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them; for you are a Galilean." <sup>71</sup> But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." <sup>72</sup> At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

*A light goes out.*

Reading

Mark 15:1-5

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. <sup>2</sup> Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so." <sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests accused him of many things. <sup>4</sup> Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." <sup>5</sup> But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.

*A light goes out.*

Reading

Mark 15:16-20

Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. <sup>17</sup> And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup> And they began saluting him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" <sup>19</sup> They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup> After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

*A light goes out.*

Reading

Mark 15:21-32

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus. <sup>22</sup> Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull). <sup>23</sup> And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup> And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take. <sup>25</sup> It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him. <sup>26</sup> The inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." <sup>27</sup> And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, <sup>30</sup> save yourself, and come down from the cross!" <sup>31</sup> In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. <sup>32</sup> Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

*A light goes out.*

Reading

Mark 15:33-37

When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. <sup>34</sup> At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" <sup>35</sup> When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah." <sup>36</sup> And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." <sup>37</sup> Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

Hymn

*"Were You There" #229 (alt. lyrics)*

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord? (x2)**  
**O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**  
**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? (x2)**  
**O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**  
**Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?**

**Were you there when the sun refused to shine? (x2)**  
**O sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**  
**Were you there when the sun refused to shine?**

*The Christ Candle goes out.*

Silence

Reading

Mark 15:42-46

When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, <sup>43</sup> Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom

of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>44</sup> Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. <sup>45</sup> When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. <sup>46</sup> Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

*Darkness envelops the land.*

Reading

Mark 10:32-34

They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, <sup>33</sup> saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; <sup>34</sup> they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again."

Postlude

Prelude and Fugue No. 24

Shostakovich

*Koki Sato, Keyboardist*

The Church Bell Tolls

Acknowledgements

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♦ **First Congregational Church UCC, Anoka, MN** ♦



1923 Third Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303 ♦ (763) 421-3375

Pastor – Rev. Chris McArdle

Minister of Visitation – Pastor Kelsey Renk

Director of Health Ministries – Jessie Waks, NP

Director of Music Ministries – Don Shier

Keyboardist – Koki Sato

Moderator – Terja Larsen

Website: <http://www.uccanoka.org> ♦ Email: [office@uccanoka.org](mailto:office@uccanoka.org)

Text-to-Give: 844-334-1477



*First Congregational Church, UCC of Anoka is an Open and Affirming Christian Community for all. We affirm that the image of God is most fully reflected in diversity. We invite all people to share their energy and talents in full participation with our community. We welcome all individuals and families of any sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, race, national origin, socioeconomic status, age, mental and physical health or ability, or belief. Together, we celebrate these and all other facets of one's essential being.*

**If you can, please join us on Easter Sunday  
for services at 8:30am and 10:30am  
as we proclaim the Good News that Christ Is Risen.**

**We will celebrate Koki Sato's time among us  
during Coffee Hour. Please come and offer him  
your gratitude and blessings for his continuing journey!**