

# Good Friday

April 3, 2026

6:30 p.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.  
**Bold indicates congregational response.**

Ringing of the Bell

Pastor's Welcome

Prelude                    *"Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"*                    Hughes

Lighting of Candles Liturgy

Let us pray,

**O Gracious Light, pure brightness of the eternal Creator in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold your vesper light, we sing your praises, Holy God, One in Trinity. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Christ of God, O giver of life, and to be glorified through all the word, Amen.**

A Reading from the Psalter                    Psalm 130  
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.  
**Praise be to God.**

Collect

From generation to generation, we gather to worship the Most High.

**We remember and turn to the One who is High and Exalted.**

Who can believe what we have heard? We are still in astonishment at the abundance of love and grace embodied in the Holy One.

**We remember and turn to the Word Made Flesh.**

Trouble confronts us daily. The evil of this world threatens to overwhelm us. We cry out to the Sovereign God.

**We remember and turn to the One who suffered.**

God hears our cries, feels our pain, and joins us on the journey.

**We remember and proclaim the One who was Wounded. Sovereign God, we come into your presence seeking you. May we be startled anew at your astounding work, will, and way. May our hearts be open to brokenness and**

**compassion. Anoint our worship and render any barrier that separates us from you. May your word permeate our flesh, fill our spirits, and be engraved upon our hearts. Amen.**

+ Hymn No. 500                    *"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"*

A Prayer of Reconciliation for Good Friday

Ever-present God on this Good Friday night, our whole world is engulfed in shadows as we remember the story of Jesus' death. We confess that we want to push the fast-forward button on this familiar story because it hurts so much. It hurts to think of the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. It hurts to imagine Jesus abandoned and suffering on the cross with only a faithful few watching him breathe his last breath. It hurts to watch your light overtaken by the shadows of the world. But we must find our place in this crucifixion story and feel the pain that is there. The pain of the world, of faithless decisions; of betrayal; of injustice. Jesus entered that pain out of faithfulness to you and to us, to witness to the truth that is justice, wholeness, and love.

**We confess we are afraid to enter this pain with Jesus. Strengthen us with your courage; offer glimpses of hope in the shadows of death; let us know you are present with us here in this moment of pain; now as always. Amen.**

Assurance of Blessing

Beloved followers of Jesus, it is okay to feel hurt and uncomfortable as you enter into this story and imagine your place in it. Know that God meets you in the story, with comfort as well as challenge; with courage as well as love.

**May it be so, Amen.**

Hymn No. 261                    *"When I Survey the Wonderful Cross"*

Reflection

Reading of the Passion Story

*We will follow the story of Christ's passion as it was told in the Gospel of Matthew. All readings are from the New Revised Standard Translation Updated Edition.*

Part I - The Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21:1-17

Hymn No. 285	<i>“Jesus, Remember Me”</i>	
Part II - Teaching in the Temple		Matthew 21:23-27 & 25:31-26:5,14-16
Hymn No. 285	<i>“Jesus, Remember Me”</i>	
Part III - The Last Supper		Matthew 26:17-35
Hymn No. 285	<i>“Jesus, Remember Me”</i>	
Part IV - The Garden		Matthew 26:36-56
Hymn No. 285	<i>“Jesus, Remember Me”</i>	
Part V - Torture and Trial		Matthew 26:57-27:10
Hymn No. 285	<i>“Jesus, Remember Me”</i>	
Part VI - The Crucifixion		Matthew 27:11-44
Hymn No. 285	<i>“Jesus, Remember Me”</i>	
Part VII - Death and Burial		Matthew 27:45-66
Special Music	<i>“Where You There?”</i>	

**Closing**

When the song ends, you are invited to come forward, light your candle from the Christ candle, and leave it on the cross. Take as much time in the sanctuary as you need.  
Please remain quiet as you leave.

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A Prayer of Reconciliation for Good Friday was written by Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel.

**Lenten Offering**

The Lenten Offering this year will be donated to Exceptional Equestrians of the Missouri Valley, Inc. Lenten offering envelopes are located by the offering plate for your donations.

Rev. Nicholas Knoblauch, Pastor + Alysha Petry, Liturgist + Brenda Herring, Organist  
Kirk Hancox, soloist + David Bean, Sound/Video Tech  
Karen Tucker, Connie Thompson, ushers



+ Good Friday +  
April 3, 2026 + 6:30 p.m.  
Zion United Church of Christ  
Union, Missouri