

**A Service of Worship for
Good Friday
April 3, 2026**

Gathering & Greeting

Call to Worship

This saying is sure and worthy of acceptance:

Christ came to save sinners.

On the cross, Jesus bore our Sin.

His life was broken in order that we might live.

We come to worship our Lord and King

We come to lay our sins at his feet.

Hymn Of Gathering

UMH #301

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

*Jesus, keep me near the cross;
there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream,
flows from Calvary's mountain.*

Refrain:

*In the cross, in the cross,
be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find
rest beyond the river.*

*Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me.*

(Refrain)

*Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day*

*with its shadow o'er me.
(Refrain)*

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river.
(Refrain)*

Prayer of Confession

***Lord, you came to bring us a new understanding of God,
But we have failed to grasp that understanding.***

***You came offering a gift of living water,
But we too often have chosen to drink from our own
wells.***

***You have offered us healing grace,
But we have preferred to wallow in our self-pity.***

***You taught us to love those who are different,
But we look down on them instead.***

***You came to stand with us in our time of pain,
But we have become lost in our self-sorrow.***

***Lord, so much of what you came to do gets lost in our
selfishness,***

But your gift of love has never failed us.

***Tonight, O Lord, we seek to die to our Sin that we may be
reborn in your image.***

So give us eyes to see your grace

***That we may know the truth about ourselves and discover
the real Truth of your love. Guide us, tonight, to find our
new life in your Son, that we may be raised like him.
Amen.***

Absolution

L: As we come to stand before the cross, we hear the voice of
Jesus proclaim; *“Father, forgive them, for they do not*

know what they are doing.” As Jesus forgave those who crucified him, so he offers forgiveness to us even now.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

P: Thanks be to God!

Hymn of Preparation

UMH #292

“What Wondrous Love is This?”

*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.*

*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 life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.*

*To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme I will sing.*

*And when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on;
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,
and through eternity I’ll sing on.*

Scripture Lesson

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Meditation at the Cross

Roy Spore

Hymn of Commitment

UMH #295

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

*In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.*

*When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me.
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.*

*When the sun of bliss is beaming
light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming
adds more luster to the day.*

*Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.*

*In the cross of Christ I glory,
towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.*

Benediction

Because of the special nature of this service, we invite the congregation to leave the service in silence. Feel free to visit with your friends and the staff outside the sanctuary.