

**First Church of Christ in Mansfield  
(Congregational) United Church of Christ**  
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All the Members, Ministers  
Rev. Joseph Blotz, Pastor  
Erik Haeger, Organist  
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**GOOD FRIDAY + APRIL 15, 2022**

**Opening Prayer**

Let us pray.

**We veil our faces before your glory, O Holy and Immortal one, and stand before the cross of your wounded Christ. We praise you, our Mercy, and we bless you, our Compassion, for in our brokenness you have not abandoned us. Hear us as we pray through Jesus, our high priest: heal all division, reconcile the estranged, console the suffering, and raise up to new life all that is bound by death. Amen.**

Hymn

*What Wondrous Love is This*

CH200

Psalter

Psalm 21

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

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

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

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

In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

**To you they cried, and were saved;**

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

But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.

**All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;**

“Commit your cause to the Lord; let God deliver, let the Lord rescue the one in whom God delights!”

**Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.**

On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

**Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.**

Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

**they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.**  
I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;  
**my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;**  
my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
**you lay me in the dust of death.**  
For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me.  
**My hands and feet have shriveled; I can count all my bones.**  
They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing  
they cast lots.  
**But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!**

Scripture

Luke 23

*Silence*

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

*You are invited to use whatever language is most meaningful to you.  
The following is offered as a suggestion:*

**Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

*Throughout the church are several prayer stations  
which continue our engagement with today's Scriptures.*

*You are invited to spend as much time as you wish at each station and then leave in silence.*

## **Washing Hands**

*When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was  
starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd.  
"I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" Matthew 27:24*

You are invited to place your hands in the baptismal waters.  
How do we attempt to deny responsibility for our participation in injustice?  
How is God calling us to claim our responsibility and work for justice, mercy, and peace?

Holy God, in baptism you name us and claim us as your own, renew within us the gift of your Spirit  
that we might be empowered to follow Christ into the ways of equity and peace for all. Amen.

## **Nails into the Cross**

*Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). There they nailed him to the cross. Two others were crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. John 19:17-18*

You are invited to write the name of someone or someplace in need of healing or relief from suffering and nail that paper to the wood of the cross.

## **Stale Bread and Vinegar**

*After this, knowing that everything was already completed, in order to fulfill the scripture, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was nearby, so the soldiers soaked a sponge in it, placed it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When he had received the sour wine, Jesus said, "It is completed." Bowing his head, he gave up his life. John 19:28-30*

You are invited to take some stale bread, dip it into the wine vinegar, and eat it.

What are you hungry and thirsty for today?

What in your life feels sour or stale?

Where might God be moving to bring transformation and change?

## **Planting Seeds**

*After this Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate if he could take away the body of Jesus. Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because he feared the Jewish authorities. Pilate gave him permission, so he came and took the body away. Nicodemus, the one who at first had come to Jesus at night, was there too. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloe, nearly seventy-five pounds in all. Following Jewish burial customs, they took Jesus' body and wrapped it, with the spices, in linen cloths. There was a garden in the place where Jesus was crucified, and in the garden was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus in it. John 19:38-42*

You are invited to choose a seed, hold it in your hands, plant it in the soil, and water the planted seed.

What are the hopes and dreams you hold for yourself, our community, our nation, and our world that you entrust to God's care for growth and nurture?