



Friday, April 18, 2025
Good Friday Community Worship

Bethlehem UCC – Kiel
Gloria Dei Lutheran- New Holstein
Ebenezer UCC- Chilton
St. John's UCC – New Holstein

Worship Leaders:
Rev. Randy Koppenhaver, Rev. Dr. David Kohls,
Nealy Janicek, Michael Hetzner
Organist: Kathy Bowe

*= Please rise in body or spirit

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME Rev. Randy Koppenhaver, Bethlehem UCC

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Behold the cross on which hung the salvation of the whole world.

All: Come, let us worship the Christ, the child of God.

One: Behold the cross on which hung the salvation of the whole world.

All: Come, let us worship the Christ, the beloved child of God.

One: Behold the cross on which hung the salvation of the whole world.

All: Come, let us worship the Christ, the chosen, beloved child of God.

*HYMN: #328

“Old Rugged Cross”

JESUS IS ARRESTED Luke 22:39-54a

Michael Hetzer of Gloria Dei Lutheran

*HYMN: #171

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION FOR GOOD FRIDAY

– Nealy Janicek of Gloria Dei Lutheran

Almighty and Eternal God, on this night our whole world is engulfed in shadows as we remember the story of

Jesus' death. We confess that we would prefer to push the fast-forward button on this story so that it would not hurt 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 as he took his last breath.**

It hurts to watch your light be overtaken by the shadows of the world.

But we must find our own place in the crucifixion story and feel the pain that is there.

The pain of the world, the 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 and always. Amen. (time of silent reflection)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE AND BLESSING

- Nealy Janicek of Gloria Dei Lutheran

Beloved followers of Jesus, it is acceptable and right 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. **Thanks be to God, Amen.**

HYMN: #193 v. 1 "Ah Holy Jesus, How hast Thou Offended"

PETER DENIES JESUS Luke 22:54b-62

Carol Balz of St. John's UCC

LITANY: John 18

One: There is no warmth in the fire.

All: Our blood runs as cold as the night.

One: The one we love is in peril.

All: Our courage blows away like the wind.

One: Strangers recognize our fellowship with Jesus.

**All: Our denial pierces the soul like the cock's crow
pierces the dawn.**

One: There is no warmth in the fire.

All: Our tears flow as cold as the night.

REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. David Kohls of St. John's UCC and Ebenezer UCC

HYMN: #193 v. 2 "Ah Holy Jesus, How hast Thou
Offended"

TRIAL OF JESUS BEFORE PILATE John 18:28-38

Ann Hansen

LITANY: Matthew 27

One: Jesus stands condemned.

All: Wait! Stop the madness.

One: It is too late.

All: We repent of our sin.

One: You have been well paid.

All: We don't want your blood money.

One: It is yours all the same.

All: Please, stop this madness.

One: It is too late.

REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. David Kohls of St. John's UCC and Ebenezer UCC

JESUS IS CONDEMNED TO DEATH John 18:38-19:16

Michael Hetzer of Gloria Dei Lutheran

HYMN: #193 v. 3 "Ah Holy Jesus, How hast Thou
Offended"

FROM THE CROSS, JESUS CALLS FORTH THE BELOVED COMMUNITY John 19:17-27

Jane Umland of Bethlehem UCC

LITANY

One: Come to the cross and feel the weight of the world.

All: We bring the weight of our sins.

One: Come to the cross and feel the weight of the world.

**All: We bring the weight of our desertions and our
betrayals.**

One: Come to the cross and feel the weight of the world.

**All: We bring the weight of our accusations and our
scorn.**

One: Come to the cross and feel the weight of the world.

All: We bring the weight of our lives.

REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. David Kohls of St. John's UCC and Ebenezer UCC

HYMN: #193 v. 4 "Ah Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou
Offended"

JESUS DIES Luke 23:44-49

Rev. Randy Koppenhaver of Bethlehem UCC

HYMN “Were You There When They Crucified my Lord?”

1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

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

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2. Were you there when they nailed Him to a tree?

3. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?

4. Were you there when God wept at Mary’s cry?

5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB Luke 23:50-56

Rev. Randy Koppenhaver of Bethlehem UCC

HYMN: #214 “**Jesus Remember Me when you come into your Kingdom, Jesus remember me when you come into your Kingdom...**” repeated in Taize form as you leave.

There is a basket at the back of the sanctuary for donations to the Kiel Area Ecumenical Good Samaritan Fund.

BETHLEHEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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