



Friday, April 3, 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,
Nealey Janicek-Lay Minister,
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

Read by: Melissa Koppenhaver- Bethlehem UCC

*HYMN: #171

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

UNISON PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION FOR GOOD
FRIDAY – Rev. David Kohls, St. Johns/Ebenezer

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

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

Read by: Steven Volland – Bethlehem 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 – Nealey Janicek, Gloria Dei

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

TRIAL OF JESUS BEFORE PILATE John 18:28-38

Read by: Coleen Allee – Gloria Dei

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. Randy Koppenhaver,
Bethlehem

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

Read by: Jane Umland, Bethlehem UCC

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

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

Read by: Ginny Schultz – 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. David Kohls, St. Johns/Ebenezer

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

JESUS DIES Luke 23:44-49

Read by: Ann Kohls – St. Johns/Ebenezer

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

Read by: Nancy Zimmermann – 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.

During the final hymn, the Paschal candle will be escorted from the sanctuary and extinguished. You are invited to depart in silence.

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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