

Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
United Church of Christ



Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.

APRIL 15, 2022
GOOD FRIDAY



*We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone
regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity,
sexual orientation or socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ,
we affirm that all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship,
responsibilities and blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.*

Order of Worship

PRELUDE

Turnaround

Ornette Coleman

WELCOME

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather this night in the shadow of the Cross.

Many: We gather to sing the blues and lament the events of this “Good” Friday.

One: We remember Christ’s crucifixion.

Many: And we grieve that it has not been an event that is either isolated or unique in history.

One: Jesus’ suffering continues in those who are unjustly imprisoned and wherever anyone’s life is determined by the will of another.

Many: Jesus’ blood still flows from those who are wounded by people who ought to care for them.

One: But his choice to die so that his friends might live announces to us that the cruel patterns of this world can be prevented and changed.

Many: We open ourselves to the One who lights the darkness of this night with hope. We offer ourselves to the One who ignites the spark of holy possibility.

HYMN

Were You There

Spiritual

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble!
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

WOMEN AT THE CROSS

Rev. Dr. Laurel Hayes and
Rev. Jan Barnes, *Narrators*

MUSICAL MEDITATION

Motherless Child

Spiritual

Sometimes I feel like a motherless child...
A long way from home, a long way from home

Sometimes I feel like I'm almost done...
A long way from home, a long way from home

WOMAN AT THE CROSS

Matthew 27; Luke 23; **Judges 19**

Mary of Magdala Halley Kim

MUSIC MEDITATION

Moanin'

Bobby Timmons

Every mornin' finds me moanin'
Cuz of all the trouble I see
Life's a loosing gamble to me
Ev'rybody knows I moanin'

Every evening I am moanin'
I'm alone and crying the blues
I'm so tired of paying the dues
Ev'rybody knows I'm moanin'

Lord, I spend many a days and nights alone with my grief
And I pray, really and truly pray
Somebody will come and bring me relief

Every mornin' finds me moanin'
Cuz of all I the trouble I see
Life's a loosing gamble to me
Ev'rybody knows I moanin'

WOMAN AT THE CROSS

2 Samuel 13; Matthew 20:20-27

Salome of Capernaum Kedra Tolson

MUSIC MEDITATION

Blue Monk

Thelonious Monk

Going along, singing a song,
keeping on with each new day
Never complete, knowing defeat,
measured by the dues you pay
It takes some doing, yesterday's a memory today,
gotta hear what I say

Life is a school, unless you're a fool,
and yes, the learning brings you pain
Playing the game, it all seems the same,
trial and error, loss and gain

It takes some doing, tomorrow will bring more of the same,
that's the rules of the game

Running the race, finding your place,
doesn't come the easy way.

Shallow or deep, nothing is cheap,
darkness looms come what may.

It takes some doing, hoping for the light of day,
searching for the easy way.

WOMAN AT THE CROSS

Mark 2:14 and 3:18; **Judges 11**;

Luke 23:27-31

Mary of EmmausTerri Thompson

MUSIC MEDITATION

Chameleon

Herbie Hancock

Get it, get it, get it out of my mind—I can't imagine. No way!

Keep it, keep, keep it out of my heart—it's so horrific. I say:

O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

What is the answer? Your answer.

O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

Give me an answer? Your answer.

O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

Look at, look at, look at the news—it's disturbing. Painful!

Watch out, watch out, watch out for the lies—thrown at brothers and
sisters!

O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

What is the answer? Your answer.

O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

Give me an answer? Your answer.

O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

Stop it, stop it, stop it right now—don't want to hear it. No more!

Help me, help me, help me, show me the way—to action. I ask:

O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

What is the answer? Your answer.

O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

Give me an answer? Your answer.

O Lord, please Lord, tell me what do I do now?

WOMAN AT THE CROSS

Psalm 22; **2 Samuel 21:8-14**; John 19:34

Mary of NazarethAndrea Welnick

MUSIC MEDITATION

Infant Eyes

Wayne Shorter

I see your infant eyes, a mirror to your soul.
A life before you lies, a promise to make whole.

I gaze upon at a world, filled with sorrow, pain and grief
My prayer for you my child—safe voyage on your journey deep.

But hopes are but mere dreams and life can bring you harm
If only I could hold you forever in my arms.

WOMEN AT THE CROSS *The Gospel of the Myrrh-bearers*

Dr. Hayes and
Rev. Barnes

MUSIC MEDITATION

Strange Fruit

Abel Meeropol

Southern trees bear strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root
Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant south
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth
Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh

Here is fruit for the crows to pluck
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck
For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop
Here is a strange and bitter crop

PRAYER OF LAMENTATION

Prayer

Keith Jarrett
Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

Congregation speaks the lyrics with the Pastor.

**In the gathering darkness we offer a prayer to the One who stays by us
and asks that we dare step into the dark shadows that fall everywhere.**

**Take our hands, Grand Designer, and lead us this day in the pathway
before us, our compass and stay. May your Spirit bring guidance,
please show us the way.**

**Fill our hearts with your Spirit as we leave this space, bringing hope to
a story that fear can't erase. Bless our journey together and grant us
your grace.**

Congregation prays in unison.

O God of infinite majesty and intimate love, take us by the hand and

lead us through the dark night, guiding us step by step, so that we may journey into the brightness of your truth and love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Denoon

POSTLUDE

Spiritual

John Coltrane

Thank you to Cliff Aerie, Director of the Ministry of Imagination, Creativity and the Arts, and The Oikos Jazz Ensemble — Kim Fuller, Chuck Flowers, Cliff Aerie, Carolbeth True, Glen Smith, and David True for performing this evening.

Donations are welcome, to benefit the creative expression that MICA makes possible. If you're writing a check, please make it payable to *FCCWG* and with the note, "MICA," in the memo line. You may also contribute, on our secure website at FirstChurchWG.org/donate. Select MICA from the dropdown box.

Acknowledgments

The cover artwork is a study of *The Christa* by the artist Angie Devereux. Since the 1970s feminist Christian artists have been offering depictions of the crucified Messiah as female. This work was part of an exhibition of pieces by women artists from across Europe entitled, *Celebrating Female Images of the Christ/a*, presented at the University of Winchester, England, in 2015. (Source: jesusinlove.blogspot.com)

The monologues and narration created for this edition of *Good Friday Blues* were composed by Halley Kim and David Denoon, depending strongly on the book, *Texts of Terror: Literary-Feminist Readings of Biblical Narratives* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984), by the Hebrew Bible scholar Phyllis Trible.



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