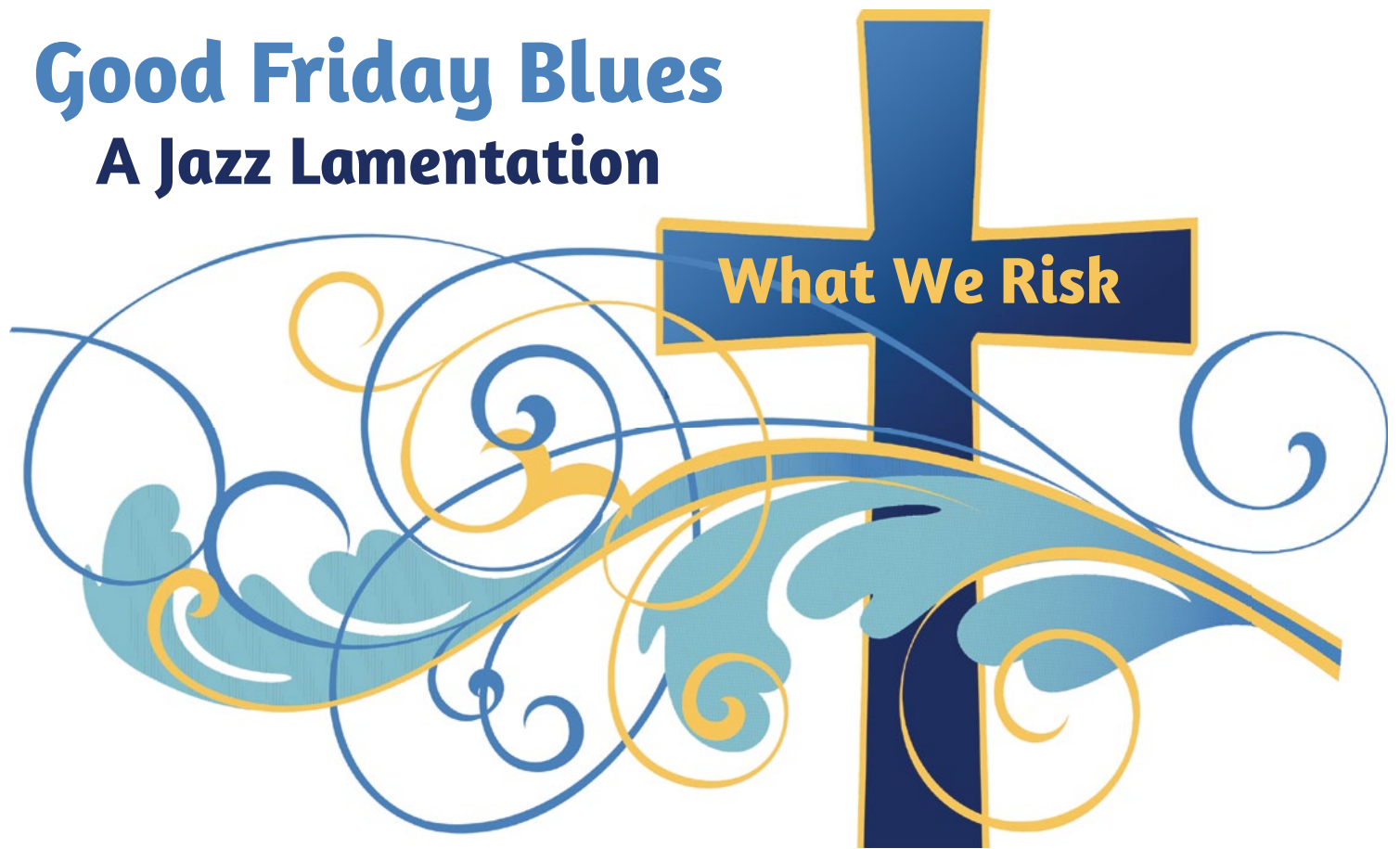


# Good Friday Blues

## A Jazz Lamentation



**APRIL 7, 2023**

**First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ**

***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 blessings  
of our congregation.***

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



## Order of Worship

### Prelude

*Mr. Syms* by John Coltrane

### Welcome

Pastors Dave Denoon and Maggie Gann

### Gathering Call

One: We gather this night at the door of Christ's tomb.

**Many: We gather to sing the blues and lament the events of that "Good" Friday.**

One: We remember Christ's crucifixion, his death, his burial.

**Many: Good Friday happened long ago, but its reality confronts us still today.**

One: The Gospel's truth compels us to set our lives at risk, like the experience of Jesus' first followers.

**Many: We are prone to worry about what others will think of us, as we are drawn to call out hypocrisy and sin, to challenge the sinful status quo, to face sacrifice and death, to differ with those we love, and to accept the cold realities of life.**

One: The death and burial of Jesus confront us.

**Many: For our own sakes and the sake of the world, here we offer ourselves to the One on whom we depend, if we are to face these risks.**

### Invocation

*Prayer* by Keith Jarrett

Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

In the gathering darkness I offer a prayer,  
to the One who stays by me and asks that I dare  
step into the dark shadows that fall everywhere.

Take my hand Grand Designer and lead me this day  
in the pathway before me, my compass and stay.  
May your Spirit bring guidance, please show me the way.

Fill my heart with your Spirit and enter this space,  
bringing hope to a story that fear can't erase.  
Bless our journey together and grant me your grace.

### **Introduction**

John 19:38-42; Luke 23:55

*Strange Fruit* by Abel Meeropol and Billie Holiday

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

### **Risking Reputation**

John 12:12-19; Mark 11:1-11

*Dahomey Dance* by John Coltrane  
Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

Hang on! Hold on tight!  
Mercy! What a sight!  
Goodness! It ain't right!

Darkness. No more sun.  
Ended. It's all done.  
Chaos has begun.

Dear me, game's been played.  
Mem'ry, starts to fade.  
Dead end, choices made.

Hang on! Hold on tight!  
Mercy! What a sight!  
Goodness! It ain't right!

### **Risking Righteous Anger**

John 2:13-17; Mark 11:15-18

*Fragile* by Sting

If blood will flow when flesh and steel are one  
Drying in the colour of the evening sun  
Tomorrow's rain will wash the stains away  
But something in our minds will always stay  
Perhaps this final act was meant  
To clinch a lifetime's argument

That nothing comes from violence and nothing ever could  
For all those born beneath an angry star  
Lest we forget how fragile we are

On and on the rain will fall  
Like tears from a star like tears from a star  
On and on the rain will say  
How fragile we are how fragile we are

On and on the rain will fall  
Like tears from a star like tears from a star  
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How fragile we are how fragile we are  
How fragile we are how fragile we are

### **Risking Challenge**

Mark 12:41-44

*Throw It Away* by Abbey Lincoln

I think about the life I live  
A figure made of clay  
And think about the things I lost  
The things I gave away  
And when I'm in a certain mood  
I search the house and look  
One night I found these magic words  
In a magic book

#### *Refrain*

Throw it away  
Throw it away  
Give your love, live your life  
Each and every day  
And keep your hand wide open  
Let the sun shine through  
'Cause you can never lose a thing  
If it belongs to you

There's a natural obligation  
To what we hold and claim  
Professing and belonging  
Acknowledging a name  
And the hands unclenched, unopened  
All the joy that they bring  
So leave your hands wide open  
If you need anything

#### *Refrain*

### **Risking Rejection**

Mark 14:3-9; John 12:1-8; 13:3-17

*Spiritual* by John Coltrane  
Instrumental

### **Risking Loss of Friends**

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

*It's Probably Me* by Sting  
(Imagine the voice of Jesus singing.)

If the night turned cold and the stars looked down  
And you hug yourself on the cold, cold ground  
You wake the morning in a stranger's coat  
No one would you see  
You ask yourself, who's watched for me  
My only friend, who could it be  
It's hard to say it, I hate to say it, but it's probably me

When your belly's empty and the hunger's so real  
And you're too proud to beg and too dumb to steal  
You search the city for your only friend  
No one would you see  
You ask yourself, who could it be  
A solitary voice to speak out and set me free  
I had to say it, I hate to say it, but it's probably me

You're not the easiest person I ever got to know  
It's hard for us both to let our feelings show  
Some would say I should let you go your way  
You'll only make me cry  
If there's one guy, just one guy  
Who'd lay down his life for you and die  
I hate to say it, I hate to say it, but it's probably me

When the world's gone crazy and it makes no sense  
There's only one voice that comes to your defense  
And the jury's out and your eyes search the room  
And one friendly face is all you need to see  
If there's just one guy, just one guy  
Who'd lay down his life for you and die  
I hate to say it, I hate to say it, but it's probably me

### **Risking Temptation**

John 21:1-19

*Chameleon* by Herbie Hancock  
Lyrics by Cliff Aerie

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

### **Resolution**

Pastors Dave and Maggie

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand* by Thomas A. Dorsey

Congregation sings

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,

when my life is almost gone,

Hear me cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the shadows appear and the night draws near,

and the day is past and gone,

At the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:

Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

### **Benediction**

#### **Coda**

*Believe in Love* by Jon Batiste

Here's the story on such an early morning

We were yawning; we were tired and hungry

And people staring, they said that we couldn't make it

Instead of sharing they came along to take it.

So we started singing and then the ground starts shaking  
So fascinating, how many people waiting  
And when you're feeling lonely and you're down and out  
Just play this song, just play this song.

We were standing with our backs against the wall  
And now we're standing hand in hand, we've got it all  
And all I know is that we must believe in love  
You got to believe in love...

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Tonight, the **Oikos Ensemble** includes Cliff Aerie, saxophone; Carolbeth True, piano; Glen Smith, bass; David True, percussion; and Kim Fuller Barnes and Jordyn Patterson, vocals. **Our cast** is Ashley Merideth as Salome of Capernaum; Andrea Welnick as Joanna wife of Chuza; and Halley Kim as Mary of Magdala.

**Good Friday Blues: What We Risk** is a project of the Ministry of Imagination, Creativity, and the Arts of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ. It was inspired by the book, **Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week, by Amy-Jill Levine** (Nashville: Abingdon, 2018). All images displayed are in the public domain or used with permission of the artist.

**Offering baskets** in the narthex of the church are prepared to receive your gifts to benefit future MICA projects. **Thank you!**

**Rev. Maggie Gann**, pastor of Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical Catholic Communion, invites you to worship with her community on Saturday night. The Great Vigil of Easter begins with a bonfire at 7:00pm in the Jubilee Garden (south garden on the east side of the church) and transitions to Sample Chapel for an evening of story, song, and sacrament. A light reception and champagne toast will follow the service. All are welcome!

**Rev. David Denoon**, pastor of the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves, United Church of Christ, invites you to his church's celebrations, this weekend also. On Saturday, April 8, at 10:00am, the church will host their annual indoor Easter Egg Hunt for children up to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. On Sunday, April 9, their Festival of the Resurrection will take place in the sanctuary at 10:00am.



10 West Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, MO 63119  
314-962-0475  
[www.firstchurchwg.org](http://www.firstchurchwg.org)