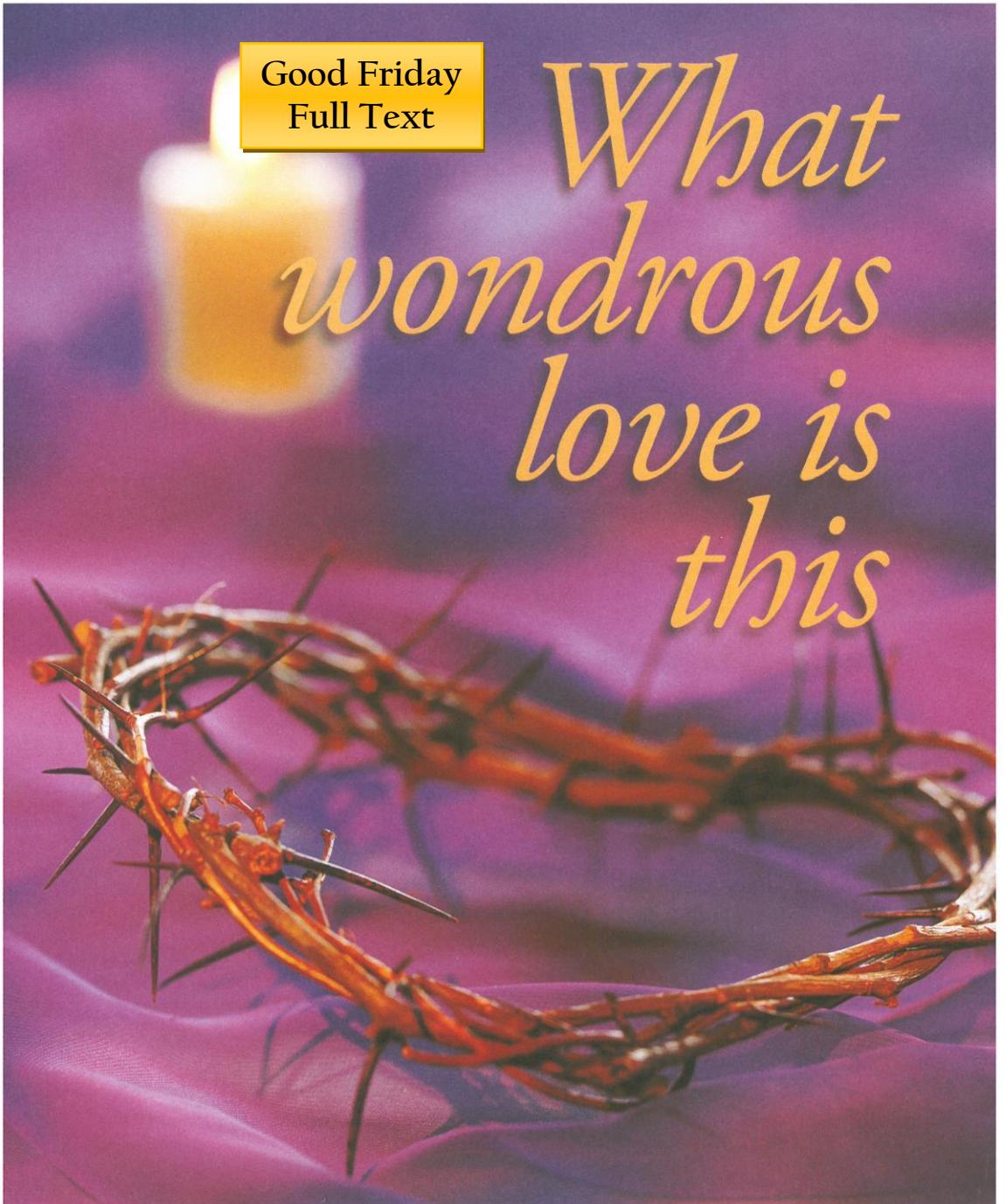


Good Friday
Full Text

*What
wondrous
love is
this*



The message of Good Friday brings us right up to the cross and Jesus' final hours. Tonight we will listen to the thoughts and questions that many of Jesus' followers surely had on this holy night so long ago. Good Friday is never good – but rather a day of supreme holy significance – hence the title Good Friday. There is also speculation that we call the day of Jesus' crucifixion Good Friday – as another way of saying God's Friday. The day when God gave up Jesus to death and the cross. This service has become part of our tradition at Epworth – to experience each year the power and drama of this holy dreadful night!

EPWORTH: a United Methodist Church
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VISION: Exploring Faith, Embracing Community

MISSION: Inviting All, Finding Your Place, Connecting to God, Demonstrating Care

☞ WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY ☞

Prelude

Broken For You ... Kathleen Wissinger

Memorial Bell Choir

JESUS WALKED THIS LONESOME VALLEY

A Tenebrae Service of Remembrance for Good Friday

There are thirteen candles lit at the beginning of the service. The candle in the center represents Jesus. As each candle is extinguished at the end of a section, lights in the sanctuary should also be turned off; the last sanctuary lights being turned off with the twelfth candle. At the end, when the thirteenth candle is blown out, the sanctuary should be completely dark. The altar is stripped of the symbols of worship. Worshipers exit the church in darkness and silence.

Introduction

As you enter this Holy space, please do so quietly and with a reverent heart. Our purpose is to remember and respect the reason for gathering on this night.

Call to Worship

(written by Roddy Hamilton)

Glenn & Vicky

- L: some shout hosanna
- P: **some shout crucify**
- L: some shout Jesus
- P: **some shout Barabbas**
- L: some wave palms
- P: **some shake their fists**
- ALL: **Today we choose.....**
- L: some break bread
- P: **some break silence**
- L: some proclaim Jesus
- P: **some deny Jesus**

L: some carry the cross
P: **some run from the cross**
ALL: **today we choose....**
L: some are angry
P: **some rejoice**
L: some anoint with costly perfume
P: **some complain at the waste**
L: some like the light
P: **some prefer the shadows**
ALL: **today we choose....**
L: some weep
P: **some conspire**
L: some follow
P: **some hide**
L: some believe
P: **some betray**
ALL: **today we choose....**
L: to shout for life
P: **to follow the cross**
L: to break bread
P: **to hold belief**
L: to trust love
P: **and tell the world**
All: **we choose to follow Jesus**

Narrator (*Glenn Catley*): This is a night of darkness and shadows - for Jesus, for His disciples, for all of us - the darkness and shadows before the dawn of redemption for the world through the new covenant given by Jesus. He blessed the bread and the cup, and began his journey to the cross; saving us through his suffering.

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane (verse 1)

UMH 290

Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;
your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

I. Judas Iscariot - The Betrayal

Narrator: We begin our journey with Jesus as he and his disciples cross the Kidron valley and enter a garden. Jesus goes off by himself to pray, asking the disciples to stay awake and keep vigil with him. Although their spirits were willing, each time Jesus returns to them, he finds them asleep. His hour is at hand, and it is here in the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus is arrested.

Judas Iscariot (*Chet Sprague*): I betrayed my Lord and Master with a kiss in exchange for thirty pieces of silver then watched as he was arrested and taken away. I thought Jesus would reveal himself as the Messiah when they came for him. I thought he would strike them all down, freeing us from our oppression. I thought he would reveal himself before the high priests at his trial - yet

He did none of these things. Peter was so angry, he drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priests' slave, Jesus told Peter to put up his sword. Then Jesus healed the slave's ear and was taken away. I have given Jesus over to those who will punish him. Now I can never return to my brothers - the other disciples. I have shared bread and wine with them for the last time.

(the candle is extinguished)

HYMN

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

TFWS 2112

Jesus walked this lonesome valley; He had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; He had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley; we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; we have to walk it by ourselves.

II. Matthew - The Beatitudes

Narrator: *(Glenn Catley)*: Every one of us remembers a moment from Jesus' ministry, remembers the way they were changed by his words and his deeds. On this night, the disciples are left alone. And each of them wonders what will happen to them, what will happen next?

Matthew *(Jeff McGuire)*: Jesus taught us many things, some of which are known to the world, others which remain only in the hearts and minds of those closest to him. I remember Jesus calling people blessed. "Blessed are the meek," he said, "blessed are the poor, blessed are those who mourn." I was blessed from the moment he called me to be with him, as is anyone who accepts him as Savior. I was blessed as I saw him reach out to those who were hungry, those who were poor, those who were sick, and those who were oppressed. He came, bringing words of hope and joy to so many who needed it. I saw how their lives were changed by his words, how they were transformed before my eyes. Now I am one who is poor, now I am one who mourns, now I am one who hungers. Now I need to hear his words just once more. Where do I go from here?

(the candle is extinguished)

HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

UMH 301

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross; there a precious fountain,
free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.

*In the cross, in the cross, be my glory ever,
till my raptured soul shall find rest beyond the river.*

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *{Refrain}*
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *{Refrain}*

III. Witness to a miracle - Feeding the Thousands

Narrator: *(Glenn Catley)*: How do you recall, in one night, in one hour, all the ways that Jesus has touched your life? How do you recall, in one night, in one hour, all the ways that Jesus changed

the world? So many wonders - so many miracles. Why did this son of a carpenter care for so many people?

Witness (JoAnn Merrick): Life is a long journey with many peaks and valleys, yet every time I saw Jesus, I stood in awe and wonder at this quiet, humble man. I watched as he climbed to the top of a hill to speak to the crowds assembled to hear him. I saw him get into a boat and go out onto a lake, so that he would not be overwhelmed. I heard him speak and heal many people and then continue his journey. I was one of the people who followed him wherever he went - there were times so many of us followed him, it was impossible for him to enter a town. I remember being in a crowd and watching as Jesus and his disciples took a few loaves and some fish - barely enough to feed themselves - when Jesus told his followers to give the bread and fishes to this crowd of thousands. Far too many for them to feed everyone with the little they had, and yet, every person who reached into the basket was fed. How I hunger to hear his voice once more, or to have the chance to sit and break bread with him. I fear that I will never do either.

(the candle is extinguished)

Hymn

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus (v1)

UMH 277

1. Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

IV. More Miracles - The Syrophœnician Woman and the Samaritan Woman

Narrator: (Glenn Catley): There is no joy on this night, only fear, regret, sorrow, and guilt. Although the disciples heard the words of Jesus, perhaps not until now did they begin to fully understand the depth of his love for all creation.

The Syrophœnician Woman (Carolyn Cattafi): I met Jesus when he came to our town - a place where Gentiles lived. I asked him to heal my daughter, and at first he refused and I became angry. I challenged him, not for my sake, but on my daughter's behalf. I had sought the one I knew who could heal my daughter and that hope led me to Jesus. Jesus healed my daughter and sent me on my way.

The Samaritan Woman (Carolyn Robinson): When Jesus traveled to Samaria, he sat down by our well, which was also the well of his ancestor Jacob. I offered him water from the well and he spoke kindly to me. I was so happy; and knew that this Jesus had changed my life. He spoke to many other women - women! Samaritan women! - as if we were part of his community. Who is his family now? Will he ever return to us?

(the candle is extinguished)

Hymn

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus (v2)

UMH 277

1. First let me hear how the children stood round his knee,
and I shall fancy his blessing resting on me;
words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
all in the love-light of Jesus' face.

V. *The Hemorrhaging Woman and the Centurion's Slave*

Narrator: *(Glenn Catley)*: Jesus performed miracles everywhere he went. The blind could see, the deaf could hear, the lame could walk. Many sought out Jesus, not only for themselves but for someone they loved.

The Hemorrhaging Woman *(Ruth Ann Curley)*: The crowd was so immense that day that I thought I would never reach Jesus, yet finally I was able to make my way to him and touch the bottom of his robe. I saw him shudder, as if the power to walk left him. Then I felt His power enter me. His disciples drew around him, as if to protect him from the crowd when I came forth to identify myself and thank him for healing me! I had been hemorrhaging for twelve years, yet had faith to believe that Jesus alone could heal me. The moment I touched the hem of his robe I was completely healed.

The Centurion *(John Ewald)*: I had heard of this Jesus being a healer, but as a Roman guard, a Centurion, I never thought he would speak to me. I gathered my courage, sought him out and spoke to him. Who would believe that this humble, gentle man had such authority and power? I knew I could ask Jesus to heal my slave, and he healed him right there! His healing power touched so many, some are known by name; others were complete strangers. How many wish for his healing touch now? How many are sick in their hearts for never knowing his love?

(the candle is extinguished)

ANTHEM

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Memorial Bell Choir

Passion Chorale (J. S. Bach); arranged by Kevin McChesney

VI. *Thomas*

Narrator: *(Glenn Catley)*: Last night was the longest night of the disciples' lives. The moment Jesus was arrested they scattered like leaves on the wind – fearing for their lives. Those who were closest to him and witnessed his greatest miracles are unable to be witnesses for him at his trial. Who will stand by Jesus now? Who will comfort him? Who will call Jesus out of the arms of those who arrested him?

Thomas *(Tim Bush)*: Word came to us that Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary, was ill. Although we warned Jesus that the Jews had sought to stone him and that he should not return just then, he decided to go anyway. And so we went with him, fearing for our lives, not knowing what punishment might lie ahead for us. We arrived too late. Martha came out of the village to meet us, to tell us that her brother was gone. Jesus then entered the village and went to Mary. When he saw all those around him weeping for the loss of Lazarus, he also wept. We thought he would stay and mourn with the family. We thought he would stand by them, offering what comfort he could. He said: "Take away the stone." He prayed to God, thanking the Lord for hearing him. And then he said: "Lazarus come out." And Lazarus did. Who could believe that a dead man would walk from his own tomb?

(the candle is extinguished)

2. We heard an angry Jesus in Temple courts declare,
 “Be gone, you money changers! This is a house of prayer.”
 Though many came for healing and stayed to hear his word,
 still others, hostile, plotted and thus his death assured.

VII. Mary Magdalene - The Temple

Narrator: *(Glenn Catley)*: Jesus taught wherever he went. Time and again he returned to the Temple, the center of his faith. It had become a place of iniquity; it was becoming a barrier to the repentance of the Israelites. It needed to be cleansed as the people needed to be cleansed.

Mary Magdalene: *(Karen Check)* Day after day, people would listen to him in the Temple as He recalled the words of the prophets. He brought the Law back to life, awakened the Law that was in our hearts. He shared with us the words of God and the will of God. He brought the stories of our ancestors back to us. He brought the meaning of our covenant relationship with God back to us. We all knew him to be a teacher – a great teacher – while others called him a prophet, like the prophets of old. He cleansed the Temple of the moneychangers and all those who bought and sold there. He also cleansed our hearts, helping us to remember the Lord's covenant with Abraham, Moses, our Deliverer, our greatest king, David, the building of the first Temple. He made the Temple a dwelling place for the Lord. Where can we go now; for without Jesus, how can we return to the Temple?

(the candle is extinguished)

VIII. Bartholomew (also called Nathanael) - The Pharisees and Sadducees

Narrator: *(Glenn Catley)*: As Jesus' popularity grew, some were not comfortable with the message he preached and the words he offered. They did not know what to do with this man. They did not know if they should support him. They were blind to what they saw, deaf to what they heard in his teachings, in his healings and in his ministry.

Bartholomew *(Miles Slatcher)*: Wherever we went, the chief priests and the scribes were there. Some questioned Jesus about the things he said. Some questioned him about the people he healed. Some questioned him about doing work on the Sabbath. Some questioned him about the authority by which he said the things he said and did the things he did. There were questions at every turn. Some watched him. Others watched those of us who followed him. Still others watched the people who came from everywhere, wanting to hear him, wanting to see him, wanting to be healed by him. A few counselors spoke with him as with an equal, respected his wisdom, and called him rabbi. What questions are they asking him now? What answers do they expect to hear? What answers will he offer them? Why didn't I go with him to face the Pharisees and the Sadducees? What answers would I give them?

(the candle is extinguished)

1. We sang our glad hosannas and waved our branches high,
 but some were silent, frowning, as Jesus rode on by.
 They sought a royal Savior, but did not understand
 a king could rule by loving instead of by command.

IX. Mother Mary - Palm Sunday

Narrator: **(Glenn Catley)**: Our expectations aren't always fulfilled and the hope of one day can fade so quickly. Although the disciples were with Jesus, and they heard what he said, they were not given to understand it. They could not read the signs; they were too caught up in the present to see the future.

Mary **(Vicky Starnes)**: It has been but a few days since my son - my Jesus - rode into Jerusalem and was welcomed with cheers, songs, and laughter! Men, women, and children came out to meet him upon the road, waving palms in the air. How the loud Hosannas rang in the streets! They called him the son of King David. They called him the prophet of Nazareth and Galilee. He had changed the lives of so many. People were healed! People were full of hope! We were full of hope! We felt our world was changing, that a new time was coming. The people were with him - my son. The people were with Jesus. And now, no one is with him, not even his disciples. They have fled from his side, leaving him alone in his hour of need. This was foretold at his birth, yet how can a mother ever believe that she will have to watch her own son die...

(the candle is extinguished)

ANTHEM

Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love

Chancel Choir

X. Simon, the Zealot - The Kingdom to Come

Narrator: **(Glenn Catley)**: As clarity comes, as the disciples begin to believe, they are left to deal with what they didn't do in the wake of Jesus' arrest and trial. For a time, they will be overwhelmed by their regret, by their failure. But, in time, they remember the significance of Jesus' life. They remember the significance of the Last Supper - the final meal the twelve would share. They remember the promise of forgiveness.

Simon **(David Hagelin)**: Last night as we shared the Passover Seder, Jesus spoke of so many things. He spoke of the promise of a kingdom to come. He spoke of a new covenant between our Lord and the people. He spoke of a new commandment of love. My mind is a blur of memories as I try to remember everything he said. Has it only been a few years since he called our names to follow him, so that he could teach others a new way? He sent us out to share what we had learned, empowering us to speak to the hearts of others wherever we went. What did he say about the kingdom to come? It was about being born anew, about being born of the Spirit. We were to change our ways, to hear the message he shared and to live it. He warned us to be ready, for no one knew, not even he, when this kingdom would arrive. He tried to prepare us for the suffering that would come. None of us were prepared for his suffering.

(the candle is extinguished)

3. We served him at the table with wine, unleavened bread.
 “The one who will betray me now eats with me,” he said.
 His friends would not believe him, but one by one that night,
 as soldiers came to take him, they scurried out of sight.

XI. Peter - The Last Supper

Narrator: *(Glenn Catley)*: By dawn this morning, all of the disciples had scattered. They feared that they too would be arrested. There was sorrow and remorse as they watched Jesus taken away, put on trial and crucified. The disciples are in their own valley of despair, not knowing what will happen to them. They have forgotten the words given to them by Jesus' teaching and in his preaching. They have forgotten the miracles he has performed. They have forgotten the love he shared. On this night, they have lost themselves.

Peter *(Emory Buck)*: Jesus asked me, "Who do you say that I am?" and I answered without hesitation: "You are the Messiah." Last night at the Passover Seder, after he washed our feet; he said that one of us would betray him. I swore that I would not; I could not do any such thing - yet it was the heart of a coward I felt beating in my breast when the moment of truth came. I did, in fact, deny that I knew him. Not once, not twice, but three times. And as he said, three times before the cock crowed. In my fear, I denied the one I had given up everything to follow. In my ignorance, I lost all he sought to teach us these past three years. I have failed him; I have failed my brothers. If only I could return to that moment at the table to break bread and drink from the cup with him and my brothers one more time. What was it Jesus said?... Each time we break bread and share the cup, we should do it in remembrance of him. And so I shall every time, I will remember.

(the candle is extinguished)

See him at the judgment hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
 O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
 Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.

XII. Pilate - The Trial

Narrator: *(Glenn Catley)*: There was so much that Jesus shared. How could anyone take it all in? Tonight we remember what was to come - the beginning of the new way. On this night, they could not realize that their time of darkness would not last forever. Perhaps even Pilate saw some light from the man brought before him.

PILATE *(Max Dick)*: It may seem odd that the Governor of Judea would hold any interest in the stories of this... Jesus. I often wondered where they could have come from if not from the God of the Hebrews. The stories I have heard were full of wisdom and important lessons, echoes of the lessons given to their Moses, and spoken by their other prophets. The Jews say this Jesus reminded them of things they had forgotten, things they stopped hearing from their priests - their rabbis. Even I sense that there is a... change in the air.

I lived my life by the rules of the Roman army and our government, but this Jesus told of a benevolent God who seeks to bring the lost one's home, like a shepherd finds his sheep, or a wayward child who is welcomed with open arms. I see now how these people live in their faith – how their faith lives in them - and how their Jesus tells of goodness in all people – even in those who do not share that faith. People like... me.

How strange that one of his closest followers would have betrayed him – left his faith for 30 pieces of silver – and that others did not stand with him at his arrest. Will their God search them out and bring them to the fold after straying so far into the darkness, or are they lost forever?

(Pilate turns to address the crowd)

ANTHEM

Father, Forgive Them ... Music by Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir

PILATE: What shall I do, then, with the one you call the King of the Jews?

CROWD: Crucify him!

NARRATOR: *(Glenn Catley)*: So Pilate, wanting to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and after having Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified.

(the candle is extinguished)

THE CRUCIFIXION

CHOIR: FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

NARRATOR: *(Glenn Catley)*: And the soldiers led him into the palace and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him with purple, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began to salute him,

CROWD: Hail, King of the Jews!

NARRATOR: *(Glenn Catley)*: They struck him on the head with a reed and spat upon him, and knelt down and bowed before Him.

CHOIR: FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

NARRATOR: *(Glenn Catley)*: And after they mocked him, they took off the purple, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him. And they brought him to the place Golgotha, which means, "The Place of the Skull."

CHOIR: FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

And they crucified Him, and divided his garments among them, casting lots to see what each one should take. And those who passed by hurled insults at him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Ha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross!"

CHOIR: FATHER, FORGIVE THEM,
FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.
THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.

NARRATOR: *(Glenn Catley)*: And Jesus cried with a loud voice... and breathed his last.

CHOIR: GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON,
THAT WHOSO BELIEVETH, BELIEVETH IN HIM
SHOULD NOT PERISH, SHOULD NOT PERISH,
BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE, EVERLASTING LIFE,
EVERLASTING LIFE, EVERLASTING LIFE.
GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,
GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD.

The cross is draped in black by the Narrator.

NARRATOR: *(Glenn Catley)*: *(stepping to the only remaining candle)* Christ is dead. We await his resurrection.

(the candle is extinguished)

Our time of meditation ends in Silence. You are invited to stay as long as you wish, to meditate and pray.

Easter Sunday Schedule

Easter Sunday, April 1

Easter SonRise Service at the Rehoboth Bandstand
Worship Celebration & Communion

6:15 a.m.
7:45 a.m.; 9:15 a.m.; 11:15 a.m.

Bulletins for the month of March are sponsored by Epworth.

The special Peace Candle on the Chancel shines to remind us of God's desire for peace throughout our world and our call to be God's peacemakers.

DVD and Broadcast Ministries: All Church Service at Epworth are presented using multimedia technology. The screens above the Chancel area are used for text, videos, photographs and live cameras. Each service is digitally recorded for archive purposes as well as for distribution to our homebound members on DVD. These recordings may also be broadcast or archived on our web page. Therefore; you may, at any time, be seen and recorded on camera - anywhere throughout the Sanctuary.

Praise Team Praise Team
Sound Ken Mahan, Sharon Wert, Josh Megee, Arne Jerfsten, Karen Kaufman
Ushers Head Usher: Jim Blakeslee
Usher Coordinator - Worship Pathway:

Ministers: The Church Family... *Lay Leader:* Gwen Osborne
Senior Pastor: Rev. Vicky Starnes ... *Associate Pastor:* Rev. Glenn Catley
Director of Music Ministries: Doug Yetter ... *Accompanist:* Linda Hess ... *Coordinator of Caring Ministries:* Mickie McManamon
Communications & Technologies Manager: Kenneth Mahan ... *Office Manager:* Darlene Ford
Special Projects: Debbie Hunt ... *Administrative Assistant:* Diana Young ... *Sound Tech:* Josh Megee
Preschool Director: Betsy Plowman ... *Nursery:* Cathy Crawford ... *Interim Cemetery Superintendent:* Jay Stevenson
Custodian: Wanda Hudson ... *Maintenance:* Mike Harrigan



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7:45 & 11:15 - Traditional 9:15 - Contemporary