

## **The Meaning of Good Friday**

For Christians, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation. Paul considered it to be “of first importance” that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day, all in accordance with what God had promised all along in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3).

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (1 John 1:10). It is followed by Easter, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, heralding his victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to him by faith (Romans 6:5).



**United Methodist Church  
Minden, Nebraska  
Pastor Peter Choi  
April 2, 2021  
7:00pm**

## Good Friday Service Order

### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather tonight in the shadow of the Cross.

**P: Evil abounds. Jesus goes forth to suffer and die.**

L: How we tremble with fear!

**P: How we weep.**

L: Why have we forsaken Him?

**P: Why have we betrayed and run from his Passion?**

L: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**P: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Reader (Kim Snavely)**

**SONG “Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed” UMH#294**

#### PRAYER

Lord, we come before you in the approaching darkness of our souls. We have traveled this Lenten journey, overcoming and conquering barriers that have kept us from serving you. We gathered at the gates of joy on Palm Sunday, and feasted at the Lord's Table yesterday. But today is a different story. We witness the arrest and trial of the Innocent Savior. We watch as he is moved brutally from place to place, to be judged by people who have hardened their hearts against you. The sorrow that we feel lies heavy upon us. Lift us, Lord. Comfort us. Help us get through this time of darkness. AMEN.

### THE SEVEN CANDLES AND THE APPROACHING DARKNESS

**A member of the Sanhedrin (Dick McBride)**

**Women disciple (KayLyn McBride)**

**SONG “Go to Dark Gethsemane” UMH#290 vs1&2**

**Soldier (Mike Boudreau)**

**Woman in the courtyard (Jodi Boudreau)**

**SONG “Go to Dark Gethsemane” UMH#290 vs3&4**

**Pilate (Douglas Hammer)**

**Woman at the crucifixion (Loneta Nolan)**

**SONG “The Old Rugged Cross” UMH #504**

**Jesus (Joyce Will)**

**Reader (Kim Snavely)**

### TIME AT THE CROSS AND REFLECTION

**THE CROSS IS COVERED!**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

*Please leave in silence, continuing in your reflections of the sacrifice made by our Lord.*