

Good Friday

April 10, 2020 | 7:00pm | New Sanctuary



by Jim LePage

Welcome to



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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open-minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio-economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

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Meditation Upon Entering the Sanctuary

Love is what God is, love is why Jesus came, and love is why he continues to come, year after year to person after person... May you experience this vast, expansive, infinity indestructible love that has been yours all along. May you discover that this love is as wide as the sky and as small as the cracks in your heart no one else knows about, and may you know, deep in your bones, that love wins. ~Rob Bell

Lighting the Christ Candle John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Welcome

Prelude *O Dearest Jesus*—arr. Albert Beck

*Call to Worship

One: We are called here to witness something we'd rather not see.

Many: There are so many other places we could be tonight.

One: We aren't sure we can hear this part of the story—too painful.

Many: We are grateful to already know what Sunday morning will bring... but we are where we are right now and need to focus.

One: We are drawn here partly because we understand the costs and joys of discipleship.

Many: We are here to remember and to commit ourselves to love in all its forms—powerful, permeating, perpetual, permission-giving.

All: Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Lenten Candles

We have been lighting seven candles each time we gather for worship on this Lenten journey. We want the light to illumine our path as we seek to be the words and ways of Jesus.

We commit to being more infused by the Spirit as we travel. Even as we know this is good and important work, we have recognized that it isn't easy—and we have come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness.

We have been extinguishing one candle each time we gather, acknowledging that this can be tough and exhausting work. We extinguished the final candle last night. Here at the desertion and depletion of Good Friday, we sit in darkness and strain to see the dawn and love of Easter morning...the light that never goes out.

Prayer at the Candles

Holy One, we are on this Lenten journey with Jesus because we want to watch him and listen to him—so that we might become more like him. Jesus has a solid sense of who he is. He tells us that he is the bread, door, vine, life, light, way, shepherd. He interacts with people in expected and unexpected ways—and they all learn and grow with the interaction. Send your Spirit to lead us, guide us and light the way to ourselves, one another and the Holy—even tonight. Amen.

*Opening Hymn #84—*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the
 5 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tower - ing



o'er the wrecks of time; All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, From the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that
 o'er the wrecks of time; All the light of



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers 'round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.
 sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers 'round its head sub - lime.

Call to Confession & Silent Prayer

Assurance of God's Forever Love Based on Romans 8

We have this assurance that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Response *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus*—Folk Tune

Text: Trevor Francis | Offered by Mona Smith Herberg

<https://youtu.be/Us3FOdYyY9Q>

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of Thy love
Leading onward, leading homeward to Thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore!
How He watches o'er His loved ones, died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth, watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
Ttis a haven sweet of rest!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus, 'tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory, for it lifts me up to Thee!

Children's Time

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to God belong,
They are weak but God is strong**

**Yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me still today,
Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give,
Life and love to all who live**

Yes, Jesus loves me...

Jesus' Angst Prayer Luke 22:39-44

Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "God, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground.

Identity *Half-Empty or Half-Full?*—Karen Boyd

<https://youtu.be/NQIufg7bvrY>

Offering Our Gifts to God 2nd Mile Lent/Easter

Heifer Project | Lydia's House | Unleashing Potential | Eden Seminary

Offertory *Song without Words*—Greg Schmelig

<https://youtu.be/FSBAes4iuws>

***Response** [tune: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross]

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy One, we are so conflicted tonight. We want to be generous, gracious, energized and yet we are frightened and frustrated—in fight or flight mode. Help us to find calm amid this chaos. Call to us in ways we can hear and receive and trust. Sometimes the most effective way to stay focused on Your love is to find ways—old and new—to be a source of this love in the life of others. May these gifts we place before You act as salve to sooth souls—equip and lead us to do the same for one another even now. Amen.

Identity *What Makes Me Me?*—Peggy Mohl

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtxvGAPTrO8>

Lament Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people. All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads; “Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver—let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me; they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled; I can count all my bones.

They stare and gloat over me; they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid! Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!

Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me. I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Identity *Mary, the Mother of Jesus at the Cross*—Emma Landowski
<https://youtu.be/TtIN0IGJwyM>

Hymn #92—Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand,
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus with - in my mind I see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land;
the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of Christ's face;



A home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my griev - ing heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—
Con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain or loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.
the won - ders of Christ's glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

In the Garden Mark 14:32-42

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and Jesus said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”

He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “Simon, are you asleep? Could you not keep awake one hour? Keep awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. And once more he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy; and they did not know what to say to him.

He came a third time and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Enough! The hour has come; the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.”

Identity *What's the Right Thing to Do?*—Richard Scherrer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3om0tAb3xel&t=237s>

To the Cross John 19:16b-19, 25b

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them.

Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Poem *Dirge without Music*—Edna St. Vincent Millay

I am not resigned to the shutting away of loving hearts in the hard ground.

So it is, and so it will be, for so it has been, time out of mind:
Into the darkness they go, the wise and the lovely. Crowned
With lilies and with laurel they go; but I am not resigned.

Lovers and thinkers, into the earth with you.
Be one with the dull, the indiscriminate dust.
A fragment of what you felt, of what you knew,
A formula, a phrase remains, —but the best is lost.

The answers quick and keen, the honest look, the laughter, the love,—
They are gone. They are gone to feed the roses. Elegant and curled
Is the blossom. Fragrant is the blossom. I know. But I do not approve.
More precious was the light in your eyes than all the roses in the world.

Down, down, down into the darkness of the grave
Gently they go, the beautiful, the tender, the kind;
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the witty the brave.
I Know. But I do not approve. And I am not resigned.

Reassurance Psalm 23 in the form of a Doxology (read in unison)

God, You are my shepherd, I shall not want. You make me lie down in green pastures; You lead me beside still waters; You restore my soul. You lead me in right paths for Your name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in Your house forever.

Poem *Evening in Amboise*

Comforting vesper thoughts by Dottie Dwyer

<https://youtu.be/SGYdKA935J4>

Across the river come the sheep,
following the same path
they took along the bank
in the morning light.

We hear them first,
their wordless voices mingling
with the tinkling of bells,
the murmur of the river in its
bed.

On the hillsides the wheat
waves golden in the wind.
The sky is soft as wool.
Time for the evening star.

We draw the curtains,
drain the cups.
Night lays her blanket
over us like a blessing.

The Burial John 19:38-42

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body.

Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid. And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation, and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Departure in Silence

If you'd like to hear more of the traditional readings for Good Friday, please find them here with Val and Doug Detjen (in this order)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zj15T_5O3jw
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AKUZrqOnud0;>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ffA7CXe_QY;
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wu9TtEfS-c4>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvbgnVq5z2k>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxuQOT9xqlc>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_H1i0tNAk8

If you'd like to spend some additional time with your grief, Emma invites you into a gentle guided meditation here (approx. 8 minutes)
https://youtu.be/QwT-OloB_to

If you'd like to engage in a grief ritual where you bless someone who has died and they bless you - from Naomi Levy's Einstein and the Rabbi: Searching for the Soul – please go here with Kevin (approx. 5 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6gcc_IdkY&t=78s