

Good Friday

Friday, April 2, 2021 | 7:00pm | New Sanctuary



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

There are so many ways to be brave in this world. Sometimes it is nothing more than gritting your teeth through pain, and the work of every day, the slow walk toward a better life. That is the sort of bravery I must have now. ~Veronica Roth

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Prelude

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.

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.

Lenten Candles

We lit seven candles at the start of our Lenten journey. We have invited the light to illumine our path as we have sought to be the words and ways of Jesus. We committed to being more infused by the Spirit as we traveled. Even as we know this is good and important work, we have recognized that it hasn't been easy—and we have come upon the shadow side of humanity and some of our own unique darkness. We have extinguished one candle each time we have gathered for worship this season, acknowledging that this is tough and exhausting work. As we arrive at the desertion and depletion of tonight and tomorrow, we also prepare ourselves for the dawn and love of Easter morning...the light that never goes out.

Prayer at the Candles

Holy One, we have been watching and listening to Jesus this Lenten season. We have done so with the expectation that we would be inspired to follow him and echo his words and actions. We have paid particular attention to our hands that wipe tears; make music; tremble; prepare foods; struggle with carpal tunnel or arthritis; applaud and lift others up; hold other hands and embrace; sometimes do harm; wash feet; build and repair; touch the earth gently; strain in handcuffs;

wring amid nail biting; write letters and make calls; sting from splinters and papercuts; engage in hand-offs, handouts and hand-me-downs; clench in fists; draw-sculpt-carve-paint-stitch-weave; swat; pray; commit to being open and available. Amen.

Response *Put Peace into Each Other's Hands*—Fred Kaan

Tune: St Columbia, Irish Traditional Melody—*With Joy Draw Water; Immortal Love; Mother of All*

Put peace into each other's hands and like a treasure hold it; protect it like a candle flame, with tenderness enfold it.

Put peace into each other's hands with loving expectation; be gentle in your words and ways, in touch with God's creation.

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.

Children's Time

Blessing the Children *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

**Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone;
Waking, sleeping, I am with you. You are my own;
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.**

Mission Moment 2nd Mile Lent/Easter

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

Offering Our Gifts to God

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 soothe souls—equip and lead us to do the same for one another even now. Amen.

Psalter Lesson 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.

Unison Psalter Lesson Psalm 23 in the form of a Doxology
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.

Response *Come to Me*—Christopher Grundy

<http://www.christophergrundy.com/videos-2/>

At the Table and In the Garden

Matthew 26:20-22, 25

When it was evening, Jesus took his place with the twelve; and while they were eating, he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”

Matthew 26:30-31a, 33-35

When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, “You will all become deserters because of me this night; Peter said to him, “Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you.” Jesus said to him, “Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you.” And so said all the disciples.

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, “Father, 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.

Mark 14:32-42

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he 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, 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."

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.

Reflections

https://fb.watch/4i3k_wSG ~Andrew Mitchell

Response *Beauty for Brokenness*

<https://fb.watch/4i2TwsNAiz/> ~Ashley June Moore

Response *Beauty for Brokenness*

<https://fb.watch/4i3dRpZaJv>

~Jordan Struckman with music by Cayden Stephens

Response *Beauty for Brokenness*

<https://fb.watch/4i2JkimQbN/> ~Sara Stubblefield

Response *Amazing Grace*

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

And grace my fears relieved;

How precious did that grace appear

The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,

I have already come;

'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,

And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise

Than when we'd first begun.

The Arrest and Trial John 18: 3-5, 19-23, 33-40a

So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?" They answered, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus replied, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them.

Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. Jesus answered, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret.

Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.”

When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?”

Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?”

Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.”

Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?”

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” Pilate asked him, “What is truth?”

After he had said this, he went out to the Jews again and told them, “I find no case against him. But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover. Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?”

They shouted in reply, “Not this man, but Barabbas!”

Response *Were You There?*

Doris and Aidan McCarter | <https://youtu.be/sgzQEWaTeDI>

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.

Extinguishing the Lights & Removing the Christ Candle

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.

Response *Look to the Rose*—Joseph M. Martin

Rose of Sharon, what a name for the Son of God who came.

If you seek God's love today, look to the Rose.

Rose of Sharon, thorns your crown,

image of God's grace come down.

Where does God's great love abound? Look to the Rose.

From dry ground God's gentle flower

came to show us love's true power.

**Then one day upon a hill, one by one, one by one, one by one
the petals fell.**

Rose of Sharon, bloom today, may your fragrance never fade.

Plant him in your heart to stay. Look to the Rose, the Rose.

Return of the Christ Candle

Hope to carry us to Easter morning

36 Hour Prayer Vigil to Easter Morning