



*Unraveling
the Good News
Lent 2026*

Good Friday When We've Come Undone April 3, 2026

We are a progressive community of faith seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus, pursue justice and live God's love.

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



PRELUDE *What Wondrous Love is This?* Southern Harmony
Ring For Joy Handbell Choir Arr. Susan Geschke

GATHERING WORDS Rev. Alison J. Buttrick Patton and Rev. Steve Savage

FIRST READING John 19:1-16a

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As day turns to dusk, and all we see becomes shadowed,
We enter into this holy, harrowing night,

All: This tangle of love and betrayal, violence and pain.

One: This is the night when everything finally comes undone.

All: Everything but courage. Everything but love.

One: Tonight, we bear witness to the worst we can inflict on each other.

All: Tonight, we remember that God refused to look away.

One: May we be brave and tender enough to stay present, too.

All: May our eyes and our hearts remain open this night.

OPENING SONG *Stay with Us, O Lord* Taizé
Choir will sing first time through, then congregation is invited to join in.


Stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, night will soon fall.

Then stay with us, O Lord Jesus Christ, light in our darkness.

SECOND READING John 19:16b-22 Bob Morse

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷ and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸ There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹ Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹ Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

The first candle is extinguished.

INTERLUDE *Were You There?* African-American Spiritual 
Ring for Joy Handbell Choir arr. Brian Childers

PRAYER OF CONFESSION*

One: When we follow in the steps of Jesus, we say *yes* to bearing a cross—
not to prove that we are worthy,
not because God requires suffering,
but because crosses cannot be avoided
when we live as Jesus lived. So together, let us pray:

**All: Jesus, when we side with you,
we side with all who threaten the centers of power.**

One: When we refuse the call
to see others' struggles as our own,
we abandon our kin to shoulder their crosses alone.
So we pray, O God,

**All: Embolden us to accept the risks that come with following you—
even as we resist the powers and systems
that set crosses on our shoulders. Amen.**

The second candle is extinguished.

REQUIEM

Pie Jesu

Gabriel Faure**

Skyler J. Keiter, Tenor Soloist

THIRD READING

John 19: 23-27

Pat Thatcher

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. ²⁴ So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says,


"They divided my clothes among themselves,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

²⁵ And that is what the soldiers did.

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

The third candle is extinguished.

SUNG MEDITATION *Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*

#480 

The Meetinghouse Choir will sing the first verse.

The Congregation is invited to join in for verses 2 and 3.

FOURTH READING

John 19: 28-30

Scott Berry

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished." Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The fourth candle is extinguished.

REQUIEM

Libera Me

Gabriel Faure**

Bruce Lockwood, Baritone Soloist

FIFTH READING

John 19: 31-37

Deb Small

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, the Jews did not want the bodies left on the cross during the Sabbath, especially because that Sabbath was a day of great solemnity. So they asked Pilate to have the legs of the crucified men broken and the bodies removed. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. ³⁵ (He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth, so that you also may continue to believe.) ³⁶ These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "None of his bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another passage of scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."

The fifth candle is extinguished.

REQUIEM

Agnus Dei

Gabriel Faure**

PASTORAL PRAYER

FINAL READING

John 19:38-42

Rick Small

³⁸ 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. ³⁹ Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, according to the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² And so, because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

The sixth candle is extinguished.

REQUIEM*In Paradisum*

Gabriel Faure**

CLOSING WORDS We end in the space between death and God's response...

SOLO*Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

American Folk Hymn

Josie DiPhilippo, Soprano Soloist

TOLLING OF THE BELL

A bell will toll 33 times, one for each year of Jesus' life.

SILENT DEPARTURE

You are invited to remain and pray in silence and depart when you are ready. The benediction printed below is offered for your silent contemplation.*

As we leave communal worship
to enter deeper into this liminal space between life, death, and life again,
go with the knowledge that the Triune God— who fashioned you with love,
whose Spirit breathes in and through you,
and who shares in our every sorrow and every joy— goes with you,
even in doubt, even in death, even to the end of the age.
Go in peace, and in silence, to wait with those who wait,
and mourn with those who mourn. Amen.

Those who are participating in the overnight Easter Vigil may move to the chapel as you feel ready to do so. Consider reflecting on the scriptures printed in this bulletin, as you keep watch.

OVERNIGHT VIGIL: A prayerful vigil begins as this evening's service concludes. Individuals have signed up to hold vigil in the chapel for two-hour time blocks, between Friday evening and Easter morning.

WORSHIP NOTES

***This evening's Prayer of Confession and printed benediction** were adapted from content written by Avery Arden, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org. The author, Avery Arden, (*they/ze*) is an autistic, genderqueer minister living near Atlanta, Georgia. They graduated from Louisville Seminary with an MDiv in 2019 and now serve on the board of More Light Presbyterians. Their ministry centers around trans and disability theologies, and practical efforts to lead faith communities ever closer to God's all-welcoming, universally-accessible Kin(g)dom. Learn more at linktr.ee/queerlychristian.

☰ **Royalty for Spirituals:** Historically, the composers of African American Spirituals were neither known nor compensated for use of their songs. The FCC UCC music department has committed to paying forward a 'royalty' each time we include a Spiritual in worship. We are now donating funds to the *Indigo Arts Alliance*. You are invited to contribute, as well. Donate by check or online, with "Royalty for Spirituals" in the memo. *Thank you.*

Meetinghouse Choir

Deirdre McClure, Director

Josie DiPhilippo, Accompanist

Soprano

Betsey Keiter

Sheryl Kieran

Dab Sandler

Adrienne Wilson

Samantha Wilson

Alto

Judith Borelli

Debra Honey

Judy Kimball

Sarah Lupien

Gina Tapp

Tenor

Chris Keiter

Skyler J. Keiter

Bruce Martel

Bass

Kevin Cleary

Walter Kimball

Terry Livingston

Bruce Lockwood

Ring for Joy Handbell Choir

Sharon Potter, Director

Nancy Cahn

Gin Gedney

Joseph Meko

Jean Fahey

Walter Kimball

Peggy Murray

Julia Frothingham

Jennifer Meko

**** Text and Translation for 4 movements from Requiem in D minor, Op. 48 by Gabriel Faure**

IV. Pie Jesu

Pie Jesu Domine
dona eis requiem;
dona eis sempiternam requiem

Blessed Lord Jesus
grant them rest;
grant them everlasting rest

V. Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,

dona eis requiem sempiternam requiem.
Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
cum sanctis tuis in aeternam,
quia pius es.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world,
grant them everlasting rest.
Light eternal – may it shine on them, Lord,
with your saints in eternity,
You who are merciful.
Rest eternal grant them, Lord,
and light perpetual - may it shine on them.

VI. Libera Me

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna
in die illa tremenda
quando coeli movendi sunt et terra,

dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.
Tremens factus sum ego et timeo,
dum discussio venerit,
atque ventura ira.
Dies illa, dies irae,
calamitatis et miseriae,
dies illa, dies magna
et amara valde.
Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Deliver me, Lord, from death eternal
in that terrible day,
when the heavens shall be moved and the
earth,
when You shall come to judge the world by fire.
With trembling I am seized and with fear,
until the trial to come,
also the coming wrath.
That day, day of wrath,
calamity and misery,
that day, great day
and exceedingly bitter.
Rest eternal grant them, Lord,
and light perpetual – may it shine on them.

VII. In Paradisum

In paradisum deducant angeli;
in tuo adventu suscipant te martyres
et perducant te in civitatem sanctam

Chorus angelorum te suscipiat,
et cum Lazaro, quondam paupere ,
aeternam habeas requiem.

To paradise may the angels lead you;
at your coming may the martyrs receive you
and bring you to the holy city, Jerusalem.
Jerusalem.

May the angel chorus receive you
and with Lazarus, once a pauper,
eternally may you have rest.

JOIN US FOR EASTER WORSHIP

Easter Sunrise Service, 6 am Sunday, April 5: Gather at Fort Williams Park, on the hill by the flagpole, to welcome the rising Son. *Dress for changeable weather and bring your colorful umbrellas!*

Easter Festival Worship, Sunday, April 5, 10 am in the sanctuary - Come make a joyful noise as we celebrate the resurrection! Easter Egg hunt to follow worship.

Earth Sunday Worship, April 19 - Second Sunday after Easter, 10 am

WHAT'S UP?

Want to stay in the loop? Make sure you are on our email list:

To UPDATE or ADD your contact info, go to:

fccucc.org and select "Contact Us"
then select "Contact Info Update Form."

Find and follow us at:

