

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
1001 Chester Road, Lansing 48912, (517) 482-6063
April 19, 2019—7:00 pm
Good Friday Service

Opening Prayer:

Blessed be the name of Jesus,
Who died to save us.
Blessed be Jesus,
who had compassion on us.
Blessed be Jesus,
who suffered loneliness, rejection, and pain,
for our sakes.
Blessed be Jesus,
through whose cross I am forgiven.
Lord Jesus, deepen my understanding
of Your suffering and death. Amen.

Praise Songs*

“Above All”
“Nothing but the Blood”

Continuing Prayer

Crucified Christ,
We draw near with awe
to this holy place of Calvary.
Here You transformed evil into the victory of love,
and violence into the victory of peace.
On this painful and mysterious day
accept our thanksgiving
for the cost of what You endured,
and give the courage to stay with You
until it is finished. Amen

Special Music

Praise Band

“For All of Us”

“*Let he or she who is without sin cast the first stone*” (John 8:7)

Instructions:

Each of us has the capacity within us to judge others without mercy, and to hurt them. To acknowledge that we have that capacity in ourselves, everyone is invited to come forward and to take a stone from the communion table. Please hold onto it during the Scripture and message. Afterwards, it is your choice: take your stone away with you to throw at others, or leave it at the foot of the cross. The choice is yours.

Scripture:

Mark 15:16-39 (NT pp.49-50)

Message:

“Mirror Image”
Rev. Dr. Rick Boyd

Confessional Prayer:

Lord, what would we have done?
Would we have fallen asleep and then run away terrified,
like the disciples at Gethsemane?
Thank You that You forgive us for our weakness,
when we opt out and run away from conflict and cost.

Lord, what would we have done?
Would we have shouted “Hosanna” on one day,
and then “Crucify” on another?
Forgive us when we fail You because it is easier to follow the crowd.

Lord, what would we have done?
Would we have been harsh and judgmental like the Pharisees?
Forgive us when we are quick to condemn, or to hide behind legalism.

Lord, what would we have done?
Would we have been like the soldiers, hard and callous, just doing their job?
Forgive us when we act blindly and unthinkingly,
without considering the effect our behavior has on others.

Lord, what would we have done?
Would we have slunk away,
ashamed from the horror of Calvary?
We thank You that You forgive us when we let You down,
and that Your love is stronger
than all the evil we could throw at You.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.
Lord, accept these prayers offered in Your name.

(Pray silently at this time,
and when you have finished, please say “Amen” out loud.)

The Lord’s Prayer

Communion Hymn

“According to Thy Gracious Word”
Blue Hymnal #402

Communion

(As you come forward, we invite you to lay your stone at the foot of the cross.)

Benediction:

“When you were dead in your sins, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us. He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross” (Colossians 2:13-15).

“Then Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross, and follow me’ (Mark 8:34).

May God be with you on your own Good Friday. Be brave and faithful. Stand up for what is right. Amen.

Closing Hymn*

“Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley”
Blue Hymnal #211

