

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

Order of Worship

March 28, 2024

Holy Week Worship

7:00 pm

*Cottage Grove United Church of Christ is a Joyful Place to be... making connections, touching lives, and serving Christ. We enter this sacred space to worship God. We leave this sacred space to serve with God.
(*People who are able are invited to stand.)*

Tonight's service will commemorate the last evening and hours of Jesus' earthly life and ministry through sacrament, scripture readings, song, and prayer. It is a service designed to remind us of Jesus' sacrifice, suffering, and amazing love for us.

Please note, especially parents with young children, that towards the end of the service the sanctuary will be **completely dark** and a **loud noise** will be made to symbolize Christ's death.

*For those in the sanctuary, the front will remain darkened following the service for those who wish to continue to pray and meditate. **Please exit the sanctuary carefully.** The lights in the back of the sanctuary will be turned on after a brief moment of silence at the end of the service for your safety.*

Countdown Music "Softly and Tenderly" Gary Afdahl
By Will Thompson, Arr. By Jason Tonioli - One License Song # 52301, One License # A-740865

Gathering Music "Near the Cross" Gary Afdahl
By William H. Doane, Arr. By Dick Torrains - One License Song # 207338, One License # A-740865

Ringin of the Bell

Welcoming the Presence of God

*A Hymn of Adoration "The Old Rugged Cross" Lyric Sheet, HFG #256

A Time of Confession and Forgiveness

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

O God, even now, we feel the shadows gather as we tell the stories of the Last Supper, your time in the Garden of Gethsemane, and your journey to and sacrifice on the cross. A sense of loneliness and foreboding hangs in the air. We want to believe we would not have abandoned you in your time of need had we been with you. But in our hearts, we know our behavior would not have differed from that of the disciples. We know this because we still turn away from you when it is expedient. We put other things before our commitment to you and fail to heed your command to serve others. Forgive us for not being more faithful. In this time before Easter, help us to reflect and remember what your sacrifice, suffering, and death mean to us. May we be prepared to greet Easter with a sense of awe and a renewed commitment to living a new life in you.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Leader: The good news is this: Jesus Christ came into the world to redeem sinners. Hear it and believe -- in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

A Response of Faith "Softly and Tenderly" Lyric Sheet, HFG #432

Order for the Sacrament of Holy Communion

(If you would like to participate in the sacrament at home, please have some bread, crackers, small tortillas, etc. to break and share as well as a cup or cups of juice, wine, or water for each person)

The Story of the Last Supper

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Hymn of Preparation

"Just As I Am"

Lyric Sheet, NCH #207

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing the Elements

*Cottage Grove UCC practices open communion. People of all ages who confess Christ as Savior are welcome at Christ's table. Tonight we will receive communion by intinction. You are invited to come forward down the center aisle, receive the bread or gluten free cracker, dip it into a cup with wine (dark colored) **OR** grape juice (light colored), eat and receive a blessing. Then return to your seat by a side aisle. Servers will go to the pews of those unable to come forward. Please inform an usher of your desire to receive communion in your pew. Sealed Communion kits (wafer and grape juice) are available in the Gathering Room for those who would like to receive the elements that way.*

Communion Music "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" Gary Afdahl
By Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio - CCLI Song # 4768151, CCLI License # 1913200

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.

We Bring Our Tithes and Offerings

An Invitation to Give In-Person, Electronically, and by Mail

(In-person guests are invited to place their offerings in the box at the back of the sanctuary. For those who wish to give electronically, a QR Code will be shown during this time in the service where you can connect to CGUCC's safe and secure online giving site directly by scanning the code with your mobile device.)

Offertory Response "Doxology" Lyric Sheet, NCH #780

The Liturgy of the Passion of Jesus Christ

First Reading Shadow of Betrayal Matthew 26:20-25

Second Reading Shadow of Desertion Matthew 26:31-35

Sung Response "Ah, Holy Jesus" Lyric Sheet, NCH #218

Third Reading Agony of the Soul Luke 22:39-44

Fourth Reading Unshared Vigil Mark 14:32-41

Sung Response "Go to Dark Gethsemane" Lyric Sheet, HFG #281