

**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin**

**April 18, 2025**



**Good Friday**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

April 18, 2025

Good Friday

6:30 pm

*It is good to learn early on that suffering and God are no contradiction, but much more a necessary unity: for me the idea that God himself suffered was always one of the most convincing teachings of Christianity.*

*I think that God is closer to suffering than to happiness, and to find God in this manner gives peace and rest, and a strong and courageous heart.*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Congregation responses are in bold.

Large print bulletins and hearing-impaired devices are available from the ushers.

**GATHER IN SILENCE**

**HYMN**

***Stay Here***

(repeated several times)

Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come.

Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray.

**PRAYER**

**L:** O God, on this somber evening, receive our prayers. Gracious God,

**P:** **When we contemplate your son's broken body, we see the brokenness in our community and in our lives. We build walls to protect us from people we fear even though you call us to build bridges and treat one another as neighbors. We neglect your call to safeguard the created order, your life-giving gift to us. Grant us your healing, we pray. Come to the broken places, the wounds, the fears, the injuries in ourselves and in the world that we do not know how to heal. We seek your wholeness, your shalom, O God.**

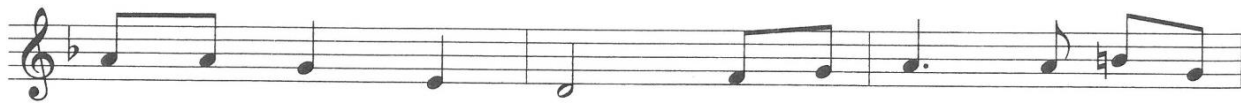
**L:** Gracious God, hear our prayer.

**\*HYMN**

**Tree of Life**



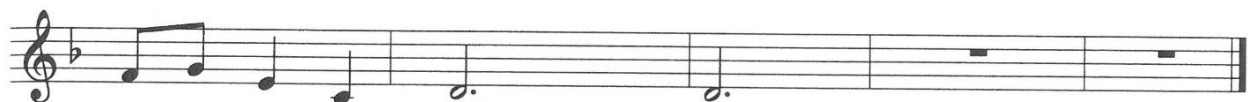
1. Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, In your  
 2. Seed that dies to rise in glo - ry, May we  
 3. We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, Love passed  
 4. Gen - tle Je - sus, might - y Spir - it, Come in -  
 5. Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, Stum - bling



death we are re - born, Though you die in all of  
 see our - selves in you, If we learn to live your  
 on through act and word, Ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
 flame our hearts a - new, We may all your joy in -  
 though our steps may be, One with you in joy and



his - t'ry, Still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, Still you  
 sto - ry We may die to rise a - new, We may  
 bro - ken Wears the bod - y of our Lord, Wears the  
 her - it If we bear the cross with you, If we  
 sor - row, We the riv - er, you the sea, We the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
 die to rise a - new.  
 bod - y of our Lord.  
 bear the cross with you.  
 riv - er, you the sea.

**THE PRAYERS**

**This is our prayer, O Lord...**



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O



Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O

## THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

...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 but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READING

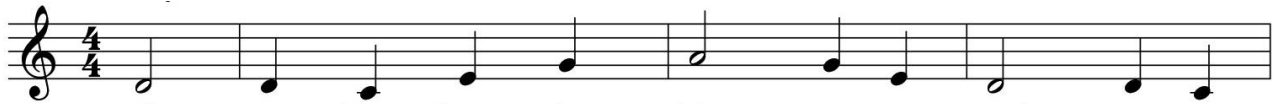
Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9

PSALM 22:1-11 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)



- L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
P: **Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?**  
L: O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;  
P: **And by night, but find no rest.**  
L: Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
P: **In You, our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**  
L: To you they cried, and were saved;  
P: **In you they trusted, and were not put to shame.**  
L: But I am a worm, and not human;  
P: **Scorned by others, and despised by the people. R**  
L: All who see me mock at me;  
P: **They make mouths at me, they shake their heads;**  
L: "Commit your cause to God"  
P: **Let God deliver – let God rescue the one in whom God delights!"**  
L: Yet it was you who took me from the womb;  
P: **You kept me safe on my mother's breast.**  
L: On you I was cast from my birth,  
P: **And since my mother bore me you have been my God.**  
L: Do not be far from me,  
P: **For trouble is near and there is no one to help. R**





1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my  
 2. As You have shown the way let us love, let us  
 3. Where ev-er You are found, may we be, may we  
 4. As in- stru - ments of peace, may we grow, may we  
 5. O let us hear Your call to be love, to be



soul? What won-drous love is this, O my soul? What  
 love, As You have shown the way let us love; As  
 be, Where ev-er You are found may we be; Where  
 grow, As in- stru - ments of peace may we grow. As  
 love, O let us hear Your call to be love; O



won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of  
 You have shown the way so teach us ev'-ry  
 ev-er You are found in souls and bo- dies  
 in- stru - ments of peace to bring the bound re -  
 let us hear Your call great ser - vant of - us



bliss To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul, for my  
 day to sim- ply be the way of Your love, of Your  
 bound Where suf- fer ing is found may we be, may we  
 lease, And make op - pres - sion cease, help us grow, help us  
 all, To be the least of all as Your love, as Your



soul, To bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?  
 love, To sim - ply be the way of Your love  
 be, Where suf- fer - ing is found may we be."  
 grow, To make op - pres - sion cease, help us grow  
 love, To be the least of all, as Your love.

***Song of Shadows***

Narration

***On the Road to Jerusalem***

Narration

***Lord, Is It I?***

Narration

***Given for You***

Narration

***And It Was Night***

Narration

***In Pilate's Court the Savior Stands***

Narration

***Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)***

Narration

***Even the Heavens Are Weeping***

(silence)

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung  
the salvation of the whole world.

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung  
the salvation of the whole world.

Behold, the life-giving cross on which was hung  
the salvation of the whole world.

# HYMN

## *Jesus, Remember Me*



Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in - to your King-dom.

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'Jesus, Remember Me'. It consists of two staves, a treble staff and a bass staff, both in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.



Je - sus, re - mem-ber me when you come in - to your King-dom.

The second system of musical notation for the hymn 'Jesus, Remember Me'. It consists of two staves, a treble staff and a bass staff, both in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves.

*Depart in silence*

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**Assisting in today's worship service are:**

**Organist:** *Marsha Pearson*

**Choir Director:** *Sarah Plum*

**Pastor:** *Rev. Chris Myers*

**JOIN** Dr. Lori Brandt Hale, Professor of Religion  
Department of Religion and Philosophy, Augsburg University, Minneapolis

*for a presentation and conversation surrounding*

## Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**Tuesday, April 29th, 6:30 pm**  
**at First Congregational UCC | 110 N. 3rd St. River Falls**



Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a pastor and theologian in Germany during World War II. He was also an anti-Nazi dissident and a founding member of the Confessing Church movement, a group that resisted efforts by the government to use churches as a pro-Nazi force to gain support for its goals. Bonhoeffer was arrested, imprisoned, and ultimately executed for his association with the resistance movement. Bonhoeffer famously argued that Christians should not withdraw from the world and its challenges, but rather act within the world guided by a commitment to justice and an understanding of the necessity of divine suffering.

**Register at First Congregational Church**

**715-425-2052**

**Event is FREE!**

