

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

April 3, 2026



Good Friday

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

April 3, 2026

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)

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Stay Here". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system has the lyrics "Stay here and keep watch with me. The hour has come." and the second system has "Stay here and keep watch with me. Watch and pray." Above the notes, various chords are indicated: F, Am, Dm, C, F, B^b, F, C in the first system, and B^b, A, Dm, C, F, B^b, C, F in the second system. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat.

PRAYER

Holy God, on this most difficult of days, receive our prayer.

Gracious God,

**look upon us with compassion; sustain us amid the burdens of life;
remove from us guilt that weakens us;
help us forgive and be reconciled;
inspire us to reach out, even to our enemies.**

Forgiving and Loving God,

we thank you for the life of Jesus the Christ, who showed us how life is to be lived. May we remember that he was gentle and humble of heart, a friend to the poor and neglected, and committed to a life of service.

Gracious God, hear our prayer. Amen.

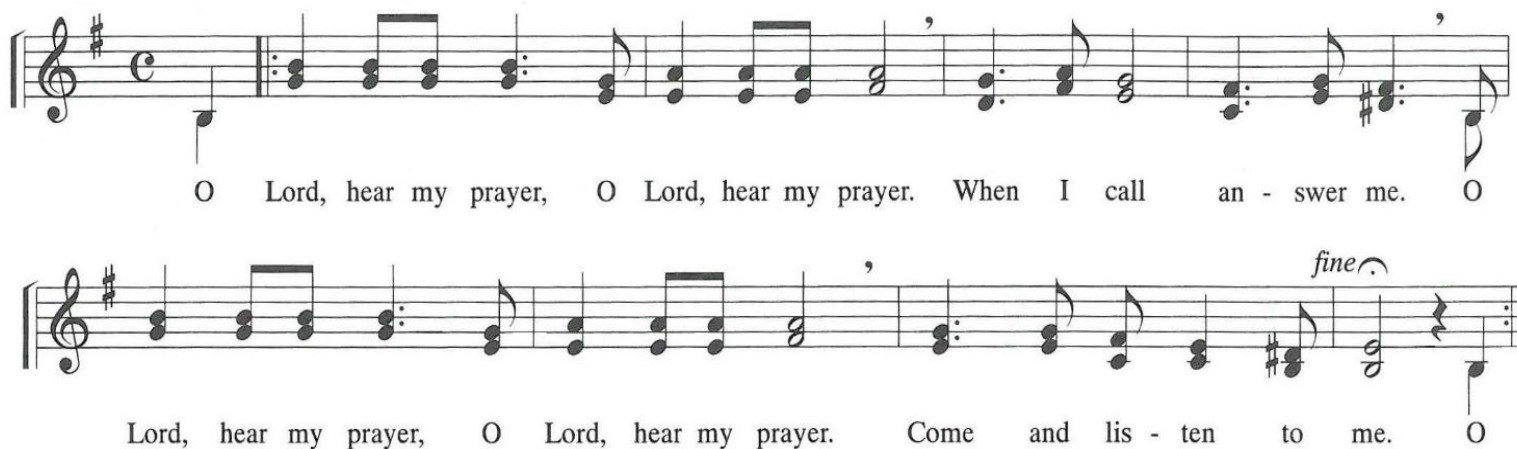
*HYMN

To Mock Your Reign

Blue #278

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 musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single line, and the accompaniment is written as chords below the line. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and accompaniment, ending with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note, with the word 'fine' written above it.

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.

What Wondrous Love Is This

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.

CANTATA

Come Walk with Me
by Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 27:45-61

HYMN

Jesus, Remember Me

(Sung repeatedly as lights are lowered and until Christ candle is extinguished)

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

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the treble staff.

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

The second system of musical notation is identical to the first, consisting of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are repeated below the treble staff.

Depart in silence

The worship service continues on Easter Sunday at 9:00 and 10:30 am.

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Organist: Marsha Pearson

Choir Director: Sarah Plum

Pastor: Rev. Chris Myers