

St. John's United Church of Christ 285 W. National Drive Newark OH 43055-5298

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Our Church Staff

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Rooted in the Evangelical and Reformed Traditions We are Sowing Seeds of Hope in a Time of Chaos So We May All Be One



April 18, 2025

Sanctuary Service: 7:00 p.m.

Welcome

Prelude "The Old Rugged Cross" Bennard

Todd Baldosser

*Opening Hymn

"Were You There"

No. 198

Cantor – Charles Dudley

Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree? Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sametimes it savges me to tramble tramble to

Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

*Call to Worship

Leader: Tonight we gather to honor Jesus, Our Savior

All: Who loves us and gave Himself for us

Leader: Let us draw near in full assurance of God's endless love and mercy

All: We give our thanks and praise to Jesus Christ who carries our

burdens and our sorrows

Leader: Heals our wounds

All: Redeems us from sin and death

Leader: And opens to us the door of eternity

All: Let us worship the God of salvation

*Prayer of Invocation

All: Jesus, we wait at the door of the cross, carrying our grief; the grief of the betrayer, the grief of the denier, the grief of the crucifiers. We carry the grief of the lost, the heartbroken, the bereft. Upon you was laid the grief and sin of us all. We hear you proclaim the words as they resound throughout history, "It is finished!" God of endings, God of the cross, God of the tomb, God of dark days and

*Please stand if you are able

great loss, be with us now as we wait with Jesus. Amen.

*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; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,

and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem "I Will Remember Thee" Althouse

Scripture Reading Isaiah 53: 7-9

Scripture Reading Romans 5: 12-15

Sermon "What's so Good about Good Friday?" Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" No. 202

1) O sacred Head, now wounded,

with grief and shame weighed down;

now scornfully surrounded with thorns, thine only crown; how pale thou art with anguish,

with sore abuse and scorn!
How does that visage languish
which once was bright as morn!

2) What thou, O Christ, hast suffered

was all for sinners' gain:

mine, mine was the transgression,

but thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! Tis I deserve thy place; look on me with thy favor, and keep me in thy grace.

3) What language shall I borrow

to thank thee, dearest Friend,

for this thy dying sorrow,

thy pity without end?

O make me thine forever;

and should I fainting be, O, let me never, never

outlive my love to thee.

*Doxology No. 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer of Dedication of the Offering

All: Lord of all, regardless of our wealth or success or provision, we stand as paupers before the unimaginable generosity and immeasurable love that is on the cross before us. Lord, have mercy upon us, sinful yet redeemed, lost and yet found, infirmed and yet healed. We dedicate these tithes and offerings to You now as gifts to Your wondrous love. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

*Closing Hymn "Amazing Grace" No. 546

1) Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound

that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;

was blind, but now I see.

2) 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,

and grace my fears relieved;

how precious did that grace appear

the hour I first believed!

4) When we've been there ten thousand years,

bright shining as the sun,

we've no less days to sing God's praise

than when we'd first begun.

*Benediction

Postlude "How Great Thou Art" Hine

Todd Baldosser

Easter Sunday - April 27 7:00 a.m. Drive-In Service

"A Finished Story or a New Beginning?"

Luke 24: 1-12

8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sanctuary Services

"The Relevancy of the Resurrection"

1 Peter 1:3; Romans 8: 11; John 11: 25-26

Easter Breakfast 7:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. (Free Will Offering)