

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELMONT



SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

Good Friday – April 18, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.



The Mystic Winepress by Léonard Gaultier, 1609

.....
***United in the Spirit, First United Methodist Church of Belmont exists
to be more like Jesus Christ for our community and beyond***
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THE REVEREND GEORGE RAGSDALE, SENIOR PASTOR
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PRELUDE

"Arwen's Vigil"
Jennifer Frisina, cello

Jon Schmidt

*PSALTER pg. 752

Psalms 22

Margie Ligon

*OPENING HYMN No. 294

"Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed"

*OPENING PRAYER

O God, who in Christ bore the full weight of our sin and sorrow, grant us grace this day to look upon the cross with honest and open hearts. As we hear again the cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me," do not let us turn away, but fix our eyes on the One who was pierced for our transgressions. In his agony, may we see not only the cost of our sin, but the depth of your mercy. And as we behold his suffering, let us come to know the love that suffers to save. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MUSIC

"Pilgrim's Hymn"
Even before we call on Your name
To ask You, O God, When we seek for the words to glorify You,
You hear our prayer; Unceasing love, O unceasing love,
Surpassing all we know.
Glory to the father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Spirit.
Even with darkness sealing us in, We breathe Your name,
And through all the days that follow so fast, We trust in You;
Endless Your grace, O endless Your grace, Beyond all mortal dream.
Both now and forever, And unto ages and ages, Amen

Stephen Paulus

Small Ensemble

HOMILY

The Rev. George Ragsdale

MUSIC

"Tre giorni son che Nina"

Giovanni Pergolesi

READING OF THE PASSION FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

LESSON I

Matthew 26:36-46
Jesus' disciples fall asleep in the Garden of Gethsemane

Stephanie Beaty

RESPONSE

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

***Go to dark Gethsemane, ye that feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour.
Turn not from his griefs away; learn of Jesus Christ to pray.***

The first candle is extinguished.

LESSON II

Matthew 26:47-56

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kimel

Judas betrays Jesus with a kiss

RESPONSE

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

***Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended,
That we to judge thee have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,
O most afflicted!***

The second candle is extinguished.

LESSON III

Matthew 26:57-68

Meredith Dayton

Jesus before the Sanhedrin

RESPONSE

"Go to Dark Gethsemane"

***See him at the judgement hall, beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;
O the wormwood and the gall! O the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss; learn of Christ to bear the cross.***

The third candle is extinguished.

LESSON IV

Matthew 26:69-75

Saundra Fann

Peter's denial

RESPONSE

"Even Here"

Mark Miller

At the land's dark roots, in the farthest deep,
Where the daylight dims, where no one can reach,
Can the hand of God, can the voice of love, find me even here?
I have turned away, I have set my fate, I have run too far, I repent too late.
O, to climb again where the eagle flies, Where its nest is set in the sunlit skies!
O forgive me, Lord, may I see your face, may I die I peace with a song of praise,
may the hand of God, may the voice of love find me even here.

Amy Dominov, soloist

The fourth candle is extinguished.

LESSON V

Matthew 27:15-26
Jesus before Pilate

Bob Burnette

RESPONSE

"O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

***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 that once was bright as morn!***

The fifth candle is extinguished.

LESSON VI

Matthew 27:27-44
The soldiers mock Jesus

Dave Lange

RESPONSE

"He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word"

L. Larson

They crucified my Lord, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
They nailed him to the tree, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
They pierced him in the side, and he never said a mumbalin' word.
He bowed his head and died, and he never said a mumbalin' word.

J. Michael Beech, soloist

The sixth candle is extinguished.

LESSON VII

Matthew 27:45-50
The death of Jesus

J. Michael Beech

RESPONSE

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

G. Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
Forbid it Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God! Christ, my God!
All vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.
See, from His head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
Were the whole realms of nature mine,
that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all Amen.

The Christ candle is extinguished.

TOLLING OF THE BELL

*Silence will be observed while the organ chime tolls 33 times,
once for each year of Jesus' life.*

LESSON VIII

Matthew 27:51-54
Surely, he was the Son of God

The Rev. George Ragsdale

RESPONSE

"Were You There"
Aaron Marsh, soloist

The Christ Candle is relit.

*Please remain seated until lighting returns to the worship space.
You are asked to observe silence in the space from this time forward.*

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Belmont! We're glad that you've chosen to worship with us this evening. We invite you to explore all the opportunities we have for children, youth and adults of all ages and stages of life. We seek to be a community of faith that welcomes all as we grow to be more like Jesus Christ for our community, loving and serving God and one another in all that we do.

If you are a guest, we are honored to have you with us. Please stop by the information center as you leave to receive a small gift and more information about our church. We look forward to getting to know you in the days to come! Welcome!

Tonight's Bulletin Cover features Léonard Gaultier's *The Mystic Winepress* (1609), a haunting allegorical engraving of Christ being crushed in a winepress, his blood flowing like wine. Drawing from Isaiah 63 and Revelation 14, the image reveals Jesus as both the suffering servant and the source of salvation, whose poured-out life becomes the cup of mercy. Angels gather his blood in chalices, evoking the mystery of the Eucharist. The Latin inscription reads: "I have trodden the winepress alone, and of the people there was none with me."

BELMONT COMMUNITY SUNRISE SERVICE

Easter Sunday
Greenwood Cemetery
He is risen indeed!

Easter Sunday Worship

April 20 | 8:30 & 11:00



REVELATION

LIVING WITH THE END IN MIND

New Worship Series Begins May 4

OUR STAFF

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