

We Go Out In God's Name

*Having gathered together in God's name and been fed by God's Holy Word,
we go out in God's name bearing the peace of Christ to the world.*

✠Hymn #228 *Were You There?*

✠Charge and Benediction

✠Postlude *(You are invited to leave this holy place, this sanctuary in silence, as we prepare for the quiet of Holy and Great Saturday, while we sit vigil as Christ body rests in the tomb.)*

✠Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

Service Material References

There's a Path words by Marcia McFee, music by Chuck Bell.

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There's a Path and *Come and Rest*, words by Marcia McFee, music by Chuck Bell.

Participants in tonight's service

Pastor Paul Arnold, First United Methodist Church, Champaign

Rev. Joe Lundy, Associate Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Champaign

Rev. Beth Wagner, Interim Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Champaign

Choirs from First United Methodist and First Presbyterian Church under the direction of Sam Stephenson, Music Director First Presbyterian Church, Champaign and Barbara Zachow, Director of Music First United Methodist Church, Champaign.



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Good Friday Service

Gifts of the Dark Wood

First Presbyterian Church & First United Methodist Church

April 3, 2026 **7 PM**



Service for Good Friday

We invite you to join with us remembering He who bore his crown of thorns willingly, rose from the dead, and defeated death that we might have eternal life. Welcome all.

We Gather Together In God's Holy Name

God calls us together as "children." How wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour on Tower Bell

Greetings & Welcome

Call to Worship *(See screens. Soloist sings first time through; then leads congregation in the echo second time through.)*

Opening Prayer

✠Hymn #221 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* (✠Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we know that you love us,
so we confess that we have let you down.
Every day we betray you, deny you, misunderstand you, crucify you.
We betray you when we are selfish or unkind.
We deny you when we do not speak out for justice and truth.
We misunderstand you when we justify our actions
by misquoting your teaching.
We are truly sorry, and we wait for your word of love.
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

Confession Response #577 *Lord, Have Mercy*

Assurance of Pardon

We Gather Around God's Holy Word

At the center of Christian life and worship is God's Word incarnate in Christ and God's Word as recorded in scripture. We hear the story of God's love in scripture and sacrament and we say, "Thanks be to God!"

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture *Luke 23:39-43*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message *Today In Paradise*

Pastor Paul Arnold

Hymn of Reflection *When I Survey the Wonderous Cross* with choirs *(see slides)*

We Respond to God's Word

As God invites us to be disciples of his Son, we prayerfully respond to God with affirmations of faith and acts of self-giving, commitment, and thanksgiving.

Solemn Intercessions *Come and Rest* *(Choir sings the prayer with no echo first time through, with echo second time through, then lead the congregation in the echo)*

Come and rest (echo: **come and rest**)

Come and listen (echo: **come and listen**)

Lay the fullness of your lives before the Maker (echo is a canon).

... Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask using the language and wording most familiar to you:

The Lord's Prayer (in the language and wording most familiar to you.)