

Worship Service for Bethany and Bethlehem U.C.C.
April 3, 2026
Good Friday

Prelude and Bell Ringing
Welcome and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 22: 1-5)

L: My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

C: **Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.**

L: O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer;

C: **And by night, but I have no rest.**

L: In You our fathers trusted; They trusted and You delivered them.

C: **To You they cried out and were delivered; In You they trusted
and were not disappointed.**

*HYMN #426 SS *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O Jesus, on this fateful Friday, You faced the rejection of the crowds, the betrayal of Your followers, and the punishment of the state. You went down the narrow way of Calvary, dragging the cross on Your back for us. On this day may we be given the grace to ponder how we have not followed what You desire for us and how we have also betrayed You. Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we are like sheep who have gone astray; we have turned our own way. On this Good Friday, help us to be more mindful of this reality. But we know this does not have to be the end of our story. We ask that You would forgive us, and help us follow Your ways more closely. Teach us how, as Your servants and disciples, we can walk more closely with You. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

(Tonight's offering will go to local food pantries)

**We Give Thee But Thine Own* UCC #351

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

We give thanks for Your many gifts to us, O God. Most of all we give You thanks for the gift of Your Son our Savior. His loving sacrifice changed the world and changes us. In that spirit, may we offer ourselves totally to You. Bless our gifts for the needs of others. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts and debtors)

SCRIPTURE John 19: 17-26

SPECIAL MUSIC *Ah, Holy Jesus*

MESSAGE-*Following the Crowd*

HYMN #129 UCC *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

There is no Benediction this evening because of the events of this night do not conclude until the Easter morning resurrection.

Bethany United Church of Christ

848 E Co Rd 70, Mendon, IL 62351 | bethanyucc-tioga.org

