

*Holy
Thursday*



**April 6, 2023
7:30 pm in Main Sanctuary**

**EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH
United Church of Christ**

Ministers and Staff of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Senior Pastor* ~ bkdaniel@erucc.org

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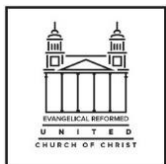
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**EVANGELICAL REFORMED
United Church of Christ**
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



*All who are able may stand

TENEBRAE COMMUNION SERVICE

This service has three main parts:

A Service of Light, based on the traditional Vespers service in which we recognize Christ our Light

A Service of Holy Communion, in which we are invited to participate as one of The Twelve at the Last Supper

A Service of Shadows—Tenebrae, in which we meditate on the Passion of Christ and experience in dramatic form the extinguishing of the Light

Prelude *Were You There*

– Spiritual, arr. C. Marohnic

Threshold Moment *of all the ways*

You could show up with sugar cubes and two plump oranges, delivering a pep talk as you hang your coat.

You could provide a meal, filling the house with the sweet smells of rosemary and sage, lighting the candles, playing music through the rooms.

You could leave rambling voice memos that start with, *Hey, it's me, I was just thinking of you, and carry on to share the details of your day.*

You could get eye-level with the little ones, ask them questions like, *What should we put in your fort? And, what's your favorite farm animal?*

You could remember people's first and middle names, signs of an old-school love.

You could add your pronouns to your nametag and Zoom screen.

You could cry with her when her dog gets sick.

You could remember how he likes his cookies—soft or crispy.

You could deliver Thai food and order extra sticky rice, because sometimes we just need extra sticky rice.

You could drop off flowers.

You could tell the waitress, *"It's their birthday!"*

There are a million ways to show someone your love.

Footwashing was his.

***Call to Worship**

God is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

God is the strength of my life: whom shall I dread?

I am seeking your presence, O God.

Do not abandon me to my foes. There are people who hate me; there are things that control me; there are places that frighten me.

Trust in God. Stand fast and have courage.

Help us this night not to fall away. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and give us the courage to withstand.

***Hymn** *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face*

336, stanzas 1, 2

Words of Welcome and Introduction to the Service

Invocation for the Service of Light

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

**Gracious God, you give us the sun to illumine the day
and the moon and the stars to shine by night.**

**Kindle in us the flame of your love that our lives may shed abroad the
radiance of your light and the world may be full of the splendor of
your glory; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness.**

Amen.

Prayer at the Lighting of the Candles

O Gracious Light, Pure brightness of the eternal Creator in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and Blessed!

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold your
vesper light, we sing your praises, Holy God, One in Trinity.**

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Christ of God,
O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Lighting of the Table Candles

Hymn *Christ Be Our Light*

– B. Ferrell

Refrain sung by all:

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray:

Spirit of Christ, be with us now.

We may try to avoid this hour of trouble; we may not stay awake.

Help us to face our fear of the cross on which you died.

Help us face the crosses we must carry to honor your life.

Silence for Personal Confession

Let us continue:

We are your disciples. And we too follow you with confusion and fear.

**Strengthen us, we pray, so that we may walk through life into death
without fear; through the night into eternal light. Amen**

Reading the Mandatum Novum (New Commandment)

John 13: 34-35

(The origin for the name Maundy Thursday)

Anthem *View from the Upper Room*

– C. Courtney
Senior Choir

REMEMBERING THE LAST SUPPER

You will be invited to come forward in groups of 12, bringing your offering with you. As you wait to come to the table, spend this time in silent reflection. As you come forward imagine yourself at that table with Jesus. What are you seeing? Feeling? Place your offering in the basket as you leave and take a candle and light it from a candle on the table. As you listen to the readings that will soon be read, you are invited to extinguish your candle at some point when a reading strikes you – or when all the readings are finished so that there will eventually be complete darkness.

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS: TENEBRAE

Shadow of Betrayal	Matthew 26: 20-22, 2 Linda Coyle
Shadow of Desertion	Matthew 26: 31a, 33-35 Will Duncan
Agony of the Soul	Luke 22: 39-44 Jo Ann Fritz
Unshared Vigil	Mark 14: 32-41 Peg Stahler
Father/Mother, the Hour Has Come	John 17: 1-4, 6 Betsy Selby
That They May Be All One	John 17: 15-18 Barbara Rhoads
Arrest in the Garden	John 18: 1-5 Robert Morris
Shadow of the Cross	Mark 15: 16-20 Richard Leslie

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, for ever. Amen.

THE STRIPPING OF THE SANCTUARY

The Promise

John 14: 15-17

There is no Benediction because the events of this night do not conclude until Easter morning resurrection. Keep the faith in vigil through Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

Please depart in silence.

Holy Week Services at ERUCC

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 7

Noon in Main Sanctuary

7:30 pm in Main Sanctuary and Livestream

Seeking: Why have you forsaken me?

Matthew 27:27-50

Jesus' final lament gives voice to all those who have been forsaken— those who suffer injustice, those who are abandoned, those who are unjustly convicted. Instead of trying to answer this question with logic or theology, we are invited to live it, to sit with it. Sitting with this unsettling question unearths and unveils many more questions: What do we do in the face of unimaginable suffering? Can we sit in the silence of death and trust that God is there? Will we be in solidarity with those who suffer and grieve?

EASTER SUNDAY

Seeking: Who are you looking for?

John 20:1-18

Jesus, mysteriously appearing to Mary as the gardener, asks her: “Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?” In the haze of grief, Mary can only see what is right before her—or in this case, what is not before her. It is only when Jesus calls her by name that the veil is lifted and she beholds the resurrected Christ. On this Easter morning, who—or what—are you looking for? Why have you come to the tomb? What kind of Jesus are you looking for? What veils need to be lifted so we can recognize God's resurrection wherever it occurs?

We will share pew communion during the 10:30 am service. Special music will be provided by a brass ensemble as well as our Senior Choir.

CROSS DECORATING: CALLING ALL FLOWERS



Our yards are already seeing the emerging of spring flowers, heralding the coming of Easter and the promise of new life. Easter takes place Sunday, April 9, and in keeping with ERUCC's tradition, will include a flower-bedecked cross that we will use to help celebrate Christ's joyous resurrection at the 10:30 am service before placing it on our front steps for our Frederick neighbors to enjoy.

Please bring flowers from your gardens or florist with you Easter morning to add to our Easter cross.