



J. Cole

Holy Friday
April 18, 2025
7:30 PM

EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH
United Church of Christ

Welcome to Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

Thank you for worshiping with us at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) this morning. We extend a special welcome to our guests.

ERUCC is an Open and Affirming Church of the United Church of Christ. We welcome into the full life and ministry persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

We ask that you **please silence your cell phones** during our worship service. We also ask that you refrain from applause after our choirs sing and allow the music to resonate in the quiet of the sanctuary and in your hearts. Our musicians are playing and singing for the glory of God. They know you appreciate their efforts and their gift.

Restrooms, accessible and equipped with changing stations, are located on the 2nd floor, below the sanctuary, and on the 1st floor, outside the Community Room. Single-occupant, all-gender, accessible restrooms are located outside the North and Flora Rooms on the 2nd floor.

There is more information about our church in this bulletin and on our website: www.erucc.org.

Mission Statement of Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ

We, the members of this congregation, seek to celebrate in word and deed the gospel of Jesus Christ, by nurturing spiritual growth through worship, study and prayer; by caring for one another as God cares for us; and by proclaiming God's love for all people as we work to help our neighbors near and far.

We commit ourselves to develop and implement specific programs to fulfill our mission.

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**EVANGELICAL REFORMED
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
– An Open and Affirming Congregation –



*The numbered hymns are from The New Century Hymnal
All who are able may stand

HOLY FRIDAY

PRELUDE

Ms. Alison E. Shafer

WELCOME

The Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Tyler L. York

I've Been the Thief

– written by The Rev. Sarah A. Speed

I want my own miracle.

I read about the blind man and the woman who touched his cloak.

I read about Lazarus and the little girl who got up.

I have seen love after loss and recovery after addiction,
so I want my own miracle.

And if it helps, I'd be willing to beg and barter for it.

I'd be willing to kiss the floor,
to sell a portion of my days,
to press my knees to the ground,
to live with this ache.

I'd be willing to pray all night,
to pray until my voice is hoarse—

*Save yourself, and us, or just,
Save yourself, and me.*

But eventually, my demands soften.

Eventually, the edge in my voice smooths.

Eventually, time wears down my insistence,
and *Save yourself and me* will become:

If you're there, just don't forget me.

Please, don't forget me.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us remember

how the sky went dark.

Let us remember

how his mother was there.

Let us remember

how people mocked him.

Let us remember

how his friends fled.

Let us remember,

how in the midst of all that, Jesus still chose love.

Let us worship holy God.

***OPENING HYMN**

What a Wondrous Love Is This

#223

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Good Friday belongs to confession. For on this day, we hold up to the light everything that went wrong 2,000 years ago; and as we do, we are reminded of everything that is going wrong in the present day. So we breathe deeply.

We bow our heads. We speak the truth out loud about who we long to be, and we trust that God is already reaching out for us as we speak. Knowing that, let us pray together. . .

*** PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of unfathomable mercy,

if we were there, we'd like to think that we would have defended you.

We'd like to think that we would have stopped the guards and silenced the mockery, protected your body and defended your name.

However, if we're honest with ourselves, we probably would have been at the edge of the crowd—silent and afraid.

How often are we silent and afraid?

How often do we wait for the stones to cry out for us?

Forgive us.

Please forgive us.

Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Even from his place on the cross, even while being met with cruelty and violence, Jesus overflows with truth and grace. He sees those around him. He speaks connection and belonging into existence. He offers forgiveness. Friends, if this is true from the cross, it is certainly true here.

We are surrounded by grace.

We are held in love.

We are forgiven—over and over again.

That truth never changes. Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM (7:30 PM service)

God So Loved the World

Senior Choir

– J. Stainer

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God who asked for a drink,

God who was killed by the state,

**God who offered love and grace even from the cross –
we are at a loss for words.**

What do we do with this day?

The air is heavy. Our hearts are heavy.

**The suffering of this world feels particularly close,
spilling out all over us.**

And yet, even in this space, we know you are moving.

Even in this space, we know that this is not the end.

Give us the heart to hear this story and the courage to let it change us.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

THE SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 52:13–53:12 OT page 683

John 18:1–19:42 NT page 112

The Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER FOR HEALING

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that the crucifixion shows us the worst in humanity—
violence inflicted on the innocent, shame poured out in excess,
mockery for the sake of mockery, abandonment of those we love.**

**We believe that Jesus shows us the best in humanity—
grace where grace is undeserved, humility in the face of power,
justice in the face of oppression, love that overcomes.**

So today, as one voice, we choose the latter.

We choose love.

We choose grace.

We choose one another.

We choose to remember.

Let it be so.

Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

#224

***BLESSING**

And as we leave communal worship
to enter deeper into this liminal space between life, death, and life again,
go with the knowledge that the Triune God—
who fashioned you with love,
whose Spirit breathes in and through you,
and who shares in our every sorrow and every joy—
goes with you, even in doubt, even in death,
even to the end of the age.

Go in peace, and in silence,
to wait with those who wait, and mourn with those who mourn. Amen.

Please depart the sanctuary in silence.



*As you exit, please take “this moment matters” a poem for Holy Saturday written by
Avery Arden | Binary-Breaking Worship: binarybreakingworship.com.*

The story is not yet finished.

As we leave in silence,
we keep vigil through the long night of Holy Saturday.
In this in-between space, we wait with trembling hearts,
trusting that even now, God is not finished.

May we watch and wait, and prepare our hearts for resurrection.

We invite you to return on Easter Sunday at 8:30 AM or 10:30 AM
as we celebrate the mystery and miracle of resurrection.

EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20

8:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion in Sanctuary and Livestream



Grief is a healthy response to Jesus' death and a valid way to enter worship on Easter morning. And yet, the women at the empty tomb are given hope amidst their mourning. The other disciples don't believe the women's message, but Peter, living in the in-between of grief and hope, runs to the tomb to see for himself. Grieving doesn't have to make us hopeless. Hope can compel us to take action when we are deep in grief.

This morning, we will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at stations in the front of the Sanctuary. The Senior Choir will sing and guest brass players will join us in celebration. We will also add to our Prayer Tree, expanding its inclusivity with brightly colored prayer flowers, alongside the fresh flowers we place on the Easter Cross, symbolizing our collective prayers and the beauty of resurrection hope.

ADORN OUR FLORAL EASTER CROSS

Sunday, April 20



As we embrace the joy of Easter, you are invited to help transform the cross into a beautiful symbol of resurrection and new life. Bring fresh flowers—whether from your garden or a florist—and place them on the cross in the sanctuary.

At the end of 10:30 AM worship service, the flower-adorned cross will be carried outside to the portico, proclaiming the promise of new life to our Frederick community.

Join us in this cherished tradition as we share the beauty and hope of Easter!

Today's liturgy was adapted from liturgy written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed and Avery Arden | *A Sanctified Art LLC* | sanctifiedart.org.

The cover artwork is *A Wide Embrace* by Lisle Gwynn Garrity | Inspired by Luke 23:32-49 | Newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing | *A Sanctified Art LLC* | sanctifiedart.org.

SERVICE NOTES

Deacon, 12:00 PM: Matt Davis

Deacon, 7:30 PM: Kyle Miller

Audio/Visual: Rodney Martin, Larry Martin, Jeff Baker

Our pastoral and administrative offices will be closed on Easter Monday, April 21.

MINISTERS AND STAFF

Rev. Dr. Marvin L. Morgan ~ *Intentional Interim Senior Pastor*

Rev. Kirstin Shrom-Rhoads ~ *Associate Pastor for Faith Formation & Parish Life*

Alison E. Shafer ~ *Director of Music*

Tyler L. York ~ *Executive Church Administrator*

Jaci Clayton ~ *Facilities Manager*

Tricia Coffey ~ *Head Chimer & Children & Youth Choir Director*

Kelly Esslinger ~ *Assistant Director for Bell Choirs & Children's Music*

Jenna Duranko ~ *Social Media Assistant*

Ashley Murphy ~ *Nursery Attendant*

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Kershner Daniel ~ *Pastor Emerita*

The Rev. Fred Wenner ~ *Pastor Emeritus*